

# PRESSRELEASE

---

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219) 873-1400 • Fax: (219) 873-1515

[www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** January 29, 2008  
**Contact:** Cindi Gonzalez-Walus  
**Phone:** (219) 873-1400  
**Fax:** (219) 873-1515

## CITY OFFICIALS WARN CITIZENS OF DANGEROUS WINTER STORM

**Michigan City, IN** --- Mayor Chuck Oberlie and John W. Jones, Director of Emergency Management, issued the following statement today:

Citizens are being warned of a dangerous arctic cold front moving in Tuesday evening. Jones forwarded the following information, "The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning for Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. Wednesday. Rain and possible thunderstorms will dump ½ inch to 1 inch of rainfall ahead of the cold front. With the rain, strong winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts of up to 50 mph will develop. Temperatures will crash quickly changing rain to snow. Any residual pooling of water and slushy snow will freeze in place, creating treacherous driving conditions. The strong winds combined with periods of heavy snowfall will cause occasional whiteout conditions. Locally, 1-3 inches of blowing snow is expected. Wind chill factors will reach -10 to -20 degrees tonight and tomorrow morning creating dangerous conditions for anyone venturing outside".

Mayor Oberlie issued the following statement; "Our citizens should plan accordingly for the multitude of issues this storm will bring. First, I would recommend that families plan to take care of any shopping or other needs today before the storm and plan to be home before the storm hits tonight around 6 p.m. I am urging citizens to stay off the ice covered roads for their own safety and so that emergency public safety crews can attend to the storm clean-up. Secondly, I would urge our citizens to take precautions to guard themselves from the dangers of the returning cold. Check on your neighbors and the elderly often while the extreme cold conditions are present. Lastly, I am issuing a phase one snow condition for Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. to allow our street department proper access to clean the street routes from curb to curb".

A phase one snow condition places a ban on parking on all designated snow routes and on the North and West sides of all other city streets. The parking ban will be lifted as soon as conditions allow.

The Michigan City Police Department will monitor the streets for homeless people and anyone who needs to be sheltered from the cold. The Michigan City Police Department has been designated as a warming shelter evenings and weekends when City Hall and the Senior Center

are closed. During the work week, the Senior Center and City Hall will serve as warming centers for those people seeking relief from the cold weather between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Any citizen who experiences a heat outage and doesn't have a warm place to go should contact the Michigan City Police Department on their non-emergency number (874-3221) for assistance. Mayor Oberlie issued the following tips to avoid and reduce the risk of injury from cold conditions:

- Plan to stay indoors and make ventures outside brief if necessary.
- Cover all exposed parts of the body and try to stay dry.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting clothing, hats and gloves.
- Stay in contact with neighbors and the elderly; checking on their welfare often
- Eat regular meals and high protein snacks like nuts. Food provides the body energy for producing its own heat.
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank near full and have extra blankets, food and prepare a winter storm survival kit for your car.

For more tips on safe guarding your family from cold winter weather visit the National Weather Services website at <http://www.weather.gov/iwx> or the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe>