

Proposed Emergency Cold Weather Shelter

For Council's Consideration:

1. Do you want to pursue a cold weather shelter that can help Camas citizens during emergency cold weather events?
2. Establishing a cold weather shelter addresses the immediate need for shelter during freezing events and provides a potential solution for extreme heat conditions. I am focusing on a cold weather shelter because freezing temperatures are more likely to cause death for people with no access to emergency backup options (generators) or for people who are homeless.
3. I am fully committed to conducting comprehensive and detailed research over the next 90 days, ensuring that all aspects of this proposal are thoroughly considered.

Why might the Council want to consider a shelter?

1. Faith-based organizations are at capacity because their volunteers are aging, and there aren't enough younger volunteers to replace them; insurance rates are increasing.
2. Clark County activates organizations like the Red Cross; large-scale callouts often cover multiple jurisdictions. The Red Cross doesn't provide long-term shelter, and sheltering people after home fire disasters is its most frequent need. John Siebert, Red Cross Regional Disaster Officer for Clark County, says he'll make field training from Red Cross personnel available to the City of Camas should we pursue a cold weather shelter.
3. Federal and state funding may be available through various legislative initiatives. CFM Advocates, the state and federal lobbying and public affairs agency we have contracted with, can assist with researching these opportunities.

Potential issues that need further exploration:

- Insurance implications
- Coordination of trained supervision personnel and volunteers
- Cost estimates for food and various supplies while the shelter is operational
- Coordination with various agencies such as:
 - The Red Cross
 - CRESA
 - Clark County
 - Council for the Homeless
 - Various City staff (Fire/EMS, Police, PW)
 - Command and logistics personnel

Facility Needs:

- Backup power (generators) for heating/cooling/internet/cellular communications
- Food prep area (warming kitchen), food storage and prep/serving supplies
- Cots, linens, toiletries
- Safe showers and restrooms
- Designated areas and furniture for eating, gathering, and activities
- First Aid station

Personnel Needs:

- Temporary facility manager and assistant managers
- Trained volunteers
- Shelter Communications Board