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COUNTY BUILDINGS TO CLOSE ALL DAY WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY MORNING

National Weather Service predicts life-threatening wind chills

Racine – Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave announced today that Racine County buildings will be closed to the public on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, and on Thursday morning, January 31, 2019, due to extreme weather conditions expected in Racine County. At this time, the reopening of County buildings is planned for 1 p.m. Thursday.

The National Weather Service is forecasting near-record wind chills approaching -50 degrees on Wednesday and has issued a rare Wind Chill Warning beginning Tuesday night, calling it a “life-threatening situation.” Given these dangerous conditions, County buildings will be closed as a proactive measure to help ensure the safety of residents.

Buildings impacted by the closure include the Racine County Courthouse, Racine County Dennis Kornwolf Service Center, the Ives Grove Office Complex and the Western Racine County Service Center.

The decision to close was based on unique circumstances presented with a historically-cold forecast. It was announced today to give courts, county employees, residents and others sufficient time to plan.

“The safety of Racine County residents and Racine County employees is my first priority,” Delagrave said. “This is an extraordinarily hazardous weather event, particularly for our most vulnerable population which Racine County serves every day. The people of southeastern Wisconsin are incredibly resilient; however, this weather should be taken seriously, and I encourage people of all ages to exercise caution in these extreme weather conditions.”

County officials are continuing to monitor the weather. Any updated closures will be posted on the Racine County web site, social media pages and through local media outlets.

According to the National Weather Service, frostbite could occur within five minutes when wind chills are -48 or colder. The National Weather Service advises that if people

must go outside, they dress in many layers and cover all skin. Residents should also be sure to check on pets and livestock.

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