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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler cold snap continues – follow winter safety tips

January 4, 2018 – Flagler County will see frigid temperatures for the remainder of the week, so officials recommend following proven winter safety tips to protect health and home.

“The National Weather Service is predicting colder temperatures the rest of the week with the lows ranging between the mid-20s and the low-30s,” said Acting Emergency Management Chief Sally Sherman. “There are a number of tried and true measures that will help keep everyone safe – especially young children, older adults, and the chronically ill.”

The Sheltering Tree – 205 N. Pine Street, Bunnell, 386-437-3258 ext. 105 – will be open to accommodate those without appropriate housing.

A hot meal is served at 6 p.m. For safety reasons once guests check in for the night, they are not permitted to leave until the morning.

Cots are provided, breakfast is served in the morning, and a change of clothes is provided to those who want it. There is no shower.

Those with questions should call The Sheltering Tree, and leave a message if necessary. Calls are returned.

Winter Safety Tips:

- Stay indoors as much as possible to keep healthy, safe and warm. Make sure to check on friends and family members and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O'Brien, Jr.
District 5

- For outside activities, dress in multiple layers of loose fitting clothing. Don't forget to wear a hat, scarf and mittens, or other winter gear.
- Heat homes safely. Those planning to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, should be extremely careful. Make sure each appliance is properly adjusted, and follow the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes for use.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Never use generators, charcoal grills or gas grills indoors. Install CO detectors to alert occupants of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas.
- As temperatures dip below freezing, leave water taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
- Eat well-balanced meals to stay warmer. Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages, as they cause the body to lose heat more rapidly. Instead, drink warm beverages such as hot chocolate or hot tea to help maintain body temperature. Those with dietary restrictions, should consult their physicians.
- Bring pets out of the cold weather and provide them warm shelter.
- Cold weather can displace wild animals. Stay clear of wild or feral animals including cats, bats or raccoons – especially if they look sick or appear injured. Animals that are injured or have rabies pose a threat.

For more information on winter weather safety, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/index.html>.

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