



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Office of Emergency Services

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Michael A. Ponticiello, Director

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Emergency Services Alerting County Residents of Extreme Cold, Wind Chill

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) The Broome County Office of Emergency Services is continuing to monitor the latest weather reports from the National Weather Service in Binghamton. The NWS Binghamton is reporting this weekend will be the coldest arctic blast of the winter with dangerously low wind chills. The lowest wind chills will occur Friday night – Saturday morning.

As the wind chill increases and temperatures fall to below zero in the Broome County this weekend, county officials are taking precautions and urging residents to stay safe.

The Broome County Health Department advises that if you must go outdoors, take precautions to keep dry and warm to protect your health. Adults and children should wear:

- a hat
- a scarf or knit mask to cover face and mouth
- sleeves that are snug at the wrist
- mittens
- water-resistant coat and shoes
- several layers of loose-fitting clothing to trap body heat

The outer layer of clothing should be tightly woven, preferably, wind resistant, to reduce body-heat loss caused by wind. Wool, silk, or polypropylene inner layers of clothing will hold more body heat than cotton.

Dressing appropriately for cold weather can help decrease your risk of getting hypothermia or frostbite, two cold weather concerns.

Warning signs of hypothermia include confusion, shivering, difficult speaking, sleepiness and stiff muscles.

In addition to significant risks of hypothermia/frostbite, this may cause problems such as frozen pipes if preventive measures are not taken. Broome County EMS responds to house fires each year caused by people using open flames to thaw frozen pipes.

Do not use an open flame to thaw pipes, as this presents serious risks to people and property.

Improper use of alternative heat sources could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

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