

# Severe Cold Response Plans



## EXTREME COLD WARNING

**Schools will be closed under the condition of an extreme cold warning.** An extreme cold warning indicates that life-threatening conditions and a risk to safety exists. Measures should be taken to safeguard life and property immediately. An extreme cold warning is typically issued when the wind chill will be  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  or colder OR the actual air temperature is  $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less.

## COLD WEATHER ADVISORY

A cold weather advisory is issued when conditions do not meet the extreme cold warning criteria but still cause significant inconvenience. The weather during a cold weather advisory is not life threatening but presents conditions that may result in inconveniences or pose moderate risk to safety. A cold weather advisory is typically issued when the wind chill is  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  or colder or the actual air temperature is  $-5^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-14^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

### GENERAL RANGE



Wind Chill  
 $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less  
OR  
Actual Air  
Temperature  
 $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$  or less



**NOTE:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is the meteorological source to determine and declare an extreme cold warning or a cold weather advisory. <http://www.weather.gov/> This document has been updated to reflect the National Weather Service revised Cold Weather Guidance.

Information initially developed with Mr. Paul Sirvatka, Professor of Meteorology, at the College of DuPage, and Dr. Alexander Means, while Chief Resident at the University of Chicago's Department of Dermatology.