

Situation Report

Situation Report: 12.27.2021		
Incident Name: December 2021 Winter Weather		
OERS Number: OERS #2021-3265		
EOC: Fully Activated	Unified Commanders: Jonna Papaefthimiou, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management Mohammad Bader, Department of County Human Services Marc Jolin, Joint Office of Homeless Services Chris Voss, Multnomah County Emergency Management	
Date: 12/27/21	Time: 1800	Please note that this situation report is available to the public.

To submit updates / actions to this report, email the Multnomah County EOC Situation Unit at eoc.situationunit@multco.us with the subject line: Update for December 2021 Winter Weather Situation Report. Updated items are in bold italics.

Multnomah County and City of Portland

December 2021 Winter Weather

Emergency Response

Executive Summary

To prepare for the winter weather incident forecasted by the National Weather Service for the 2021 holiday season, Multnomah County and the City of Portland initiated a collaborative response. Implementing lessons from the Severe Winter Weather in February 2021 and Heat Waves in Summer 2021, we are leveraging the strengths of our partners and community. Together, warming interventions and communications strategies were put in place to minimize the impacts of cold weather and prevent deaths. The County and its partners are strategically prioritizing communities with the greatest needs, using race/ethnicity disparity research, community voice and wisdom, and public health best practice.

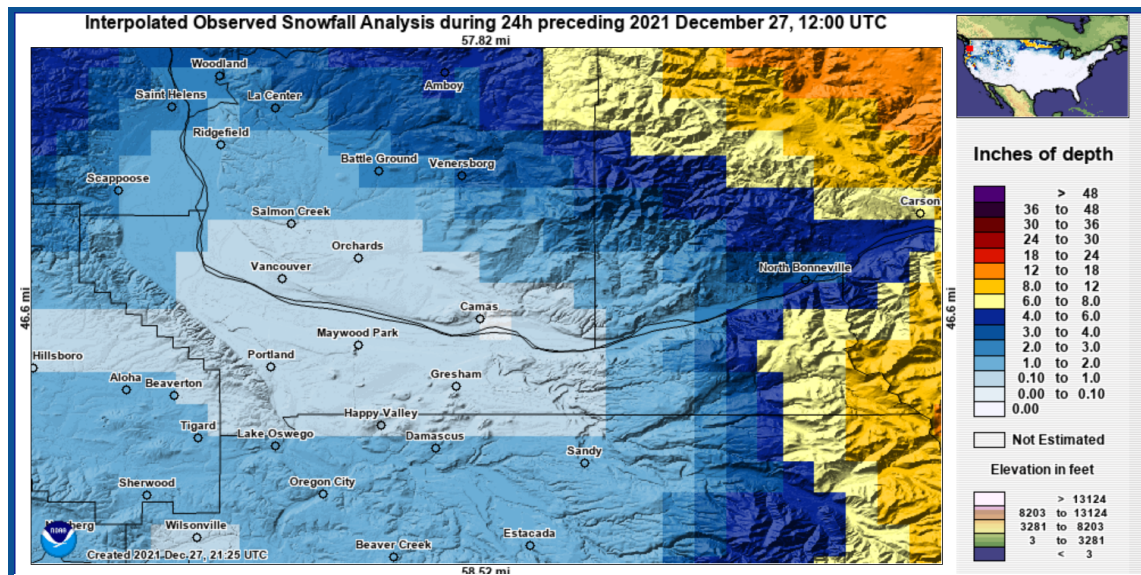
On December 23, 2021, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury and City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler declared a State of Emergency as the region braced for a prolonged stretch of freezing temperatures and snow. The first severe weather shelters opened at 3:00 pm, Saturday, December 25, 2021 and shelters are planned to operate 24-hours a day throughout the cold weather incident.

- Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury's Emergency Declaration (December 24th until January 3rd)

- City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's Emergency Declaration (December 24th until December 31st with a possibility of an extension)
- Oregon Governor Kate Brown's Emergency Declaration (December 24th until January 3rd)

Due to the national labor shortage, COVID-19 and the holiday season, staffing constraints are impacting every response section of the December 2021 Winter Weather incident. With nearly 21% percent of positions unfilled; most sections are operating with minimum staffing levels including shelters, transportation, outreach and logistics. Efforts to recruit drivers, severe weather shelter staff and outreach workers continue through social media, and county and city websites. Messages have also gone out to City and County staff as well as to Portland NET (Neighborhood Emergency Teams) and the public.

National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast



Graphic (above): Observed twenty-four (24) hour snowfall through 4:00am on December 27, 2021.

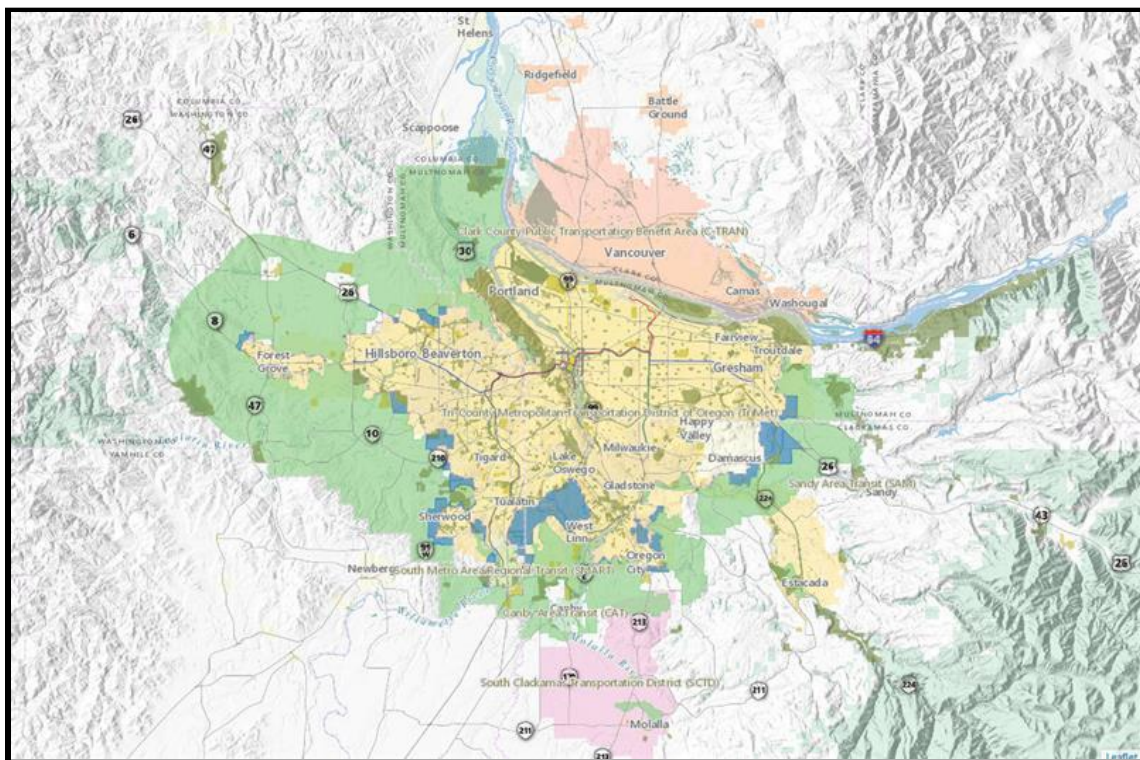
December 27, 2021 Situational Update

- A Special Weather Statement has been issued for very cold temperatures this week.
- A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect from 6:00pm this evening until 4:00pm Tuesday (12/28) afternoon.
- This morning's below freezing temperatures combined with yesterday's snow melt at lower elevations resulted in icy conditions and hazardous travel conditions, especially on roads that were untreated.
- At 1:53pm weather observations from the Portland International Airport recorded mostly cloudy conditions with a visibility of 10.00 miles and the winds were 5 mph from the Northwest. The air temperature was 29°F with a dew point of 20°F, relative humidity of 69% and wind chill of 24°F. The Altimeter reported a pressure of 29.86 inches with a sea level pressure of 1011.1 mb.

- Snow is expected later tonight into early Tuesday morning. Total snow accumulations are forecast to be one (1) to three (3) inches. Slippery road conditions are anticipated and the hazardous conditions may impact the morning and evening commutes on Tuesday.

Longer-Term Forecast

- For the rest of the week, temperatures will remain well below normal. Overnight lows for most lower elevations will remain in the 20s. Afternoon high temperatures will struggle to reach very far beyond the lower 30s, if at all.
- With these very cold temperatures, frostbite and hypothermia will occur much faster. If outdoors, remember to dress in layers and cover exposed skin.
- Weather Forecast Portland Airport (as of 2pm, December 27)
 - Forecast overnight low temperature tonight - **29 degrees**
 - Forecast high temperature, December 28 - **35 degrees**
 - Overnight low temperature, December 28-29 - **23 degrees**
- Weather Forecast Troutdale Airport (as of 2pm, December 27)
 - Forecast overnight low temperature tonight - **28 degrees**
 - Forecast high temperature, December 28 - **34 degrees**
 - Overnight low temperature, December 28-29 - **22 degrees**



Closures and Road Impacts

As of 5:00 am, December 27, most major roads are clear with no issues with traffic.

Multnomah County and the City of Portland maintained normal operations for December 27. Due to the possibility of further snow accumulation, decisions regarding closures of Multnomah County and City of Portland operations will be assessed for December 28. Portland Parks & Recreation program closures and service adjustments can be found on their [Inclement Weather Policies and Closures](#) site.

East Portland and Mt. Scott Community Centers are closed to the public through December 31. They are currently being used as severe weather shelters.

Due to winter weather, the following Portland Parks & Recreation community centers, swimming pools, arts centers, and the Portland Tennis Center delayed opening until 10:00am on Monday, December 27. All registered classes and camps scheduled for December 27, 2021 were canceled.

Delayed opening on December 27 until 10:00am at:

- **Charles Jordan Community Center**
- **Matt Dishman Community Center and Pool**
- **Montavilla Community Center**
- **Peninsula Park Community Center**
- **Southwest Community Center**
- **St. Johns Community Center**

Delayed opening for December 28 has not been determined yet, please check the Portland Parks & Recreation [Inclement Weather Policies and Closures](#) page for current information.

Operations Section

The Operations Section is coordinating and ensuring the support of warming interventions. Warming interventions are designed to provide options for those seeking respite from the severe weather, and include severe winter weather shelters and the distribution of warming resources to those remaining outdoors.

Shelter Plan

As of 2:00 pm December 27, the aggregate shelter occupancy for City/County sheltering is at 67% capacity. The Portland Building and the East Portland Community Center are currently at capacity. The following are 24-hour severe winter weather shelters currently open with their capacity and guest counts:

- **The Portland Building, Downtown, (1120 SW 5th Ave)**
 - **52 guests (52 capacity)**
- **East Portland Community Center, Mill Park, (740 SE 106th Ave)**
 - **74 guests (74 capacity)**
- **Salvation Army Moore Street Gymnasium, (5325 N Williams Ave)**
 - **38 guests (60 capacity)**

- **Mt. Scott Community Center, Mt. Scott, (5530 SE 72nd Ave)**
 - **63 guests (84 capacity)**
- **Sunrise Center (18901 E Burnside St)**
 - **37 guests (40 capacity)**
- **Market Street (120 SE Market Street)**
 - **27 guests (125 capacity)**

In order to accommodate guest capacity demands, Sunrise Center is closing operations and Reynolds High School will open at 8:00 pm on December 27. Transportation assistance will be provided to move guests from Sunrise Center to Reynolds High School (1698 SW Cherry Park Rd).

Multnomah County and the City of Portland's Mass Care and Shelter team provide compassionate care for community guests seeking relief from the cold. They operate and support severe winter weather shelters which are a type of Disaster Resource Center (DRC) with heat, warming resources, water, food, and support services. If you or someone you know wants to help, please click on the link with the name of the shelter locations to reach the volunteer signup web page.

The City of Portland and Multnomah County began jointly operating five Severe Weather Shelters at 3:00 PM December 25. Guest capacity reached 80% across all shelters overnight on the first night of opening. As a result an additional shelter opened on the evening of December 26. The latest shelter operation information is available at multco.us/cold and 211info.org.

County shelters have a "no turn away" policy because of life-threatening cold temperatures and will create additional capacity during this event as needed. Severe weather shelters do not require identification or any other documentation for entry. All shelters are ADA accessible and pets are welcome at all locations. Survival kits with life-saving gear — tents, sleeping bags, warm clothing — will also be distributed as needed at each severe weather shelter site.

In partnership with 211, the City and County are offering free transportation for guests to shelters, using City and County resources. Trimet is also waiving fares for people traveling to a shelter, and offering ticket vouchers for guests leaving shelters. Volunteers from Portland's Neighborhood Emergency Teams are partnering with 211 to provide additional remote dispatching assistance and are available to respond to requests to clear snow from driveways and sidewalks for persons with mobility issues (requested through PBOT dispatch).

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

To ensure the safety of guests, staff and volunteers, COVID-19 safety protocols are in place and everyone inside the shelter must be masked at all times (except when consuming food or drink). Shelters will have N95 or KN95 masks for guests and staff available. Shelter staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated.

Please assume that guests and staff members have COVID and act accordingly. The new COVID variant Omicron is confirmed in Multnomah County and is expected to spread quickly in the coming days and weeks. Fully vaccinated people may get sick with Omicron but are still unlikely to get seriously ill. Those who are

boosted have a lower risk of being infected at all. Any unvaccinated person is at very high risk of getting and spreading COVID.

Guest COVID testing is voluntary. Shelter guests who request a COVID-19 test will be offered one via AMR or on-site rapid tests. Transport to isolation rooms may take several hours because of the weather. If testing, transport or isolation rooms become unavailable we will do our best to separate anyone who is sick or COVID positive from others.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Vaccination clinics will be available for Severe Weather shelter guests. This service is supported by Multnomah County Public Health and American Medical Response (AMR) and is planned for all locations at scheduled times between December 26 and December 29.

Fifteen vaccines were administered on December 26, at two of the severe winter weather shelters.

Multnomah County Libraries

[Multnomah County Libraries](#) were open normal operating hours on December 27, providing additional warming spaces for residents in the day and evening.

211

Between 12/24 and 12/27 the state's 211 system received 206 calls about the severe cold weather, of which 134 (65%) originated in Multnomah County. Callers were connected to information about warming centers. All but one call used the English option. 211 also arranged 33 cab transports for guests needing rides to open severe winter weather shelters.

211info connects people with health and social service organizations. At the core of this work is the Community Information Center, supported by 211's Resource Database team. 211 provides enhanced information and referral and assistance programs that support specific populations and service needs. Preplanning for the December 2021 cold weather incident included adding severe weather shelter information to prominently feature on the 211info homepage including county-specific information about severe weather shelters in 29 Oregon counties.

Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) Ground Transportation

PBEM is assisting 211 with ground transportation support for those looking for transportation assistance to severe weather shelters. PBEM is seeking relief for Ground Transport coordinators and will be working with partners to help with passenger transportation needs. Portland Water Bureau provided vehicles for transport to shelters and snow removal.

Portland Water Bureau

Due to the freezing temperatures, Portland Water Bureau's Operations and Maintenance division as well as their construction groups are in enhanced operations to assist residents who may experience issues with the cold weather. Emergency crews are activated until January 3.

Portland Water Bureau also provided tips and precautions through social media and local news on how to prepare your home for the winter weather and avoid frozen pipes.

Administration

As the response continues to face staffing constraints, administration is encouraging employees returning from holiday time off to sign up for severe weather shelter shifts.

Staffing driver positions and coordinating ground transportation remains a challenge for the joint City and County Logistics Section.

Below are the staff numbers for the December 2021 Winter Weather as of noon on December 27 :

- ***85 slots unfilled***
- ***215 MultCo employees***
- ***63 Portland employees***
- ***14 Portland Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members***
- ***22 Members of the public***
- ***11 Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Staff Note: The State of Oregon was asked to concentrate on filling OCC shifts and had filled more shifts Sunday afternoon and night, which were canceled due to operational necessities.***

The Administration Section strives to ensure recruitment and training that creates an inclusive, positive, productive, and healthy work environment across all response operations. Team members remain nimble and address the changing conditions throughout the emergency response. They provide equity and inclusion support, as well as human resources and labor relations consultation. Staffing for the entire response is coordinated through this section.

Staff and Volunteers

Multnomah County Human Resources and the City of Portland are recruiting staff to volunteer for paid temporary reassignment to work at the severe winter weather shelters. A [series of training videos](#) was designed to help prepare community members to work in these settings. In addition to county and city staff, members of the public are also being recruited to volunteer at severe winter weather shelters with a public message for recruitment sent out on December 25 (Christmas Day). ***There is still a need for volunteers and donated gear; please click this [link](#) to sign up or donate.***

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs)

Portland [NETs](#) are providing critical assistance to this response in several aspects of the response including the following:

- Assisting with 211 and providing shelter transportation dispatch.
- Driving and logistics section support roles.
- Supporting supply preparations at Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) warehouses.
- Clearing storm drains.
- Providing accessibility assistance at TriMet stops.
- Responding to requests via Portland Bureau of Transportation dispatch for snow clearing on sidewalks and driveways for those with mobility or access needs.

Outreach / Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS)

Outreach workers continue to encourage houseless neighbors to go to shelters or check in if supplies are needed. All outreach teams will pick up more supplies December 27.

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

[The Homeless Outreach and Programs Engagement \(HOPE\)](#) continue to conduct outreach on December 27 especially for East Multnomah County.

JOHS is currently operating with multiple outreach partners who have been operating in every part of the County distributing gear. Contracted provider outreach teams have distributed even more gear that was staged at their work locations to provide easy access. We have been doing a Coordinated Outreach Mission with all outreach teams covering as much of the County as possible each day sharing out information to the houseless about shelter locations and giving gear to those who choose not to go inside..

How to help

If you see someone outside who is unsheltered and whose life appears to be in danger, call 9-1-1. If you see someone about whom you are concerned during cold weather (for instance, they are not dressed for the weather conditions), call Multnomah County's non-emergency response line at 503-823-3333 to request a welfare check.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) was established in 2016 to oversee the delivery of services to people experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County. The office represents a shared commitment between Multnomah County and the City of Portland in making services easier to access for those in need. This work is only possible because of the partnership and collaboration of many community based organizations and volunteers who provide essential contributions to outreach, staffing, and distribution efforts.

JOHS Resource Distribution

JOHS Contracted Provider Teams from Transition Projects, Cascadia Behavioral Health, Cultivate Initiatives and Yellow Brick Road were out working throughout the day well into the night. Portland Street Response, Multnomah County HOPE Team, JOHS staff members, and multiple community members that graciously offered to assist helped hand out gear and shelter fliers to their neighbors

living outside and getting information to and directions to people about winter weather shelters. On 12/26 these teams distributed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • 360 pairs of socks | 300 ponchos |
| • 300 Mylar sleeping bags | 150 hoodies |
| • 150 sweats | 180 warm hats |
| • 180 pairs of warm gloves | 75 sleeping bags |
| • 280 tarps | 145 tents |
| • 420 blankets | 1620 hot hands packets |

During a severe winter weather event, the Joint Office of Homeless Services distributes cold-weather sleeping bags, socks and tents to providers, community-based organizations, and individuals who wish to redistribute in their neighborhoods. To request gear, schedule an appointment via email to JOHSSupplies@multco.us

Between **12/20 - 12/25**, JOHS and their partners distributed these resources:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 3,234 pairs of socks | 1,610 Ponchos |
| • 1,020 Mylar Sleeping Bags | 2,414 pairs of Hot Hands |
| • 526 sets of Hoodies and Sweatpants | 2,220 sets of knit hats and gloves |
| • 822 Fifteen degree Sleeping Bags | 2,890 Tarps |
| • 491 Tents | 2,292 70% wool blankets |

The JOHS Supply Center has been staffed by volunteers and is currently well supplied.

Public Information and Joint Information System (JIS)

The Public Information Section uses an equity lens to create and disseminate vital information to the public, assuring accessibility and relevance to communities. Public Information Officers (PIOs) current priorities include communicating out resources to mitigate the impact of this extreme cold weather incident on County residents.

A Joint Information System (JIS) was established with Washington, Clackamas, Clark and Multnomah County, the cities of Portland and Gresham on December 23. The JIS will meet daily during the December 2021 Winter Weather response and post regular updates to Care for When It's Cold. The JIS is responding to a growing number of media requests, has a shared media protocol, and a social media plan where they are monitoring and posting messages in multiple languages. A number of resource materials have been created to publicize the opening of additional severe weather shelters and to encourage community members to volunteer for shifts at severe weather shelters.

- Winter Travel Guide for transportation resources, winter driving tips and snow-plow priority route information
- Cold Weather Tips to Print and Post: Includes the
 - Help for when it's cold - Information for Older Adults

- [Help for when it's cold -Winter Safety at Home](#)
- [Help for when it's cold - Information for Cold Weather Safety](#)
- [Help for when it's cold - Information for Pet Owners](#)
- The City and County have multiple social media accounts that are updated regularly in different languages with emergency messaging. Please visit and share:
 - [Multnomah County Emergency Management Facebook](#)
 - [Multnomah County Facebook](#)
 - [Multnomah County Instagram](#)
 - [Multnomah County Twitter](#)
 - [City of Portland Facebook](#)
 - [City of Portland Twitter](#)

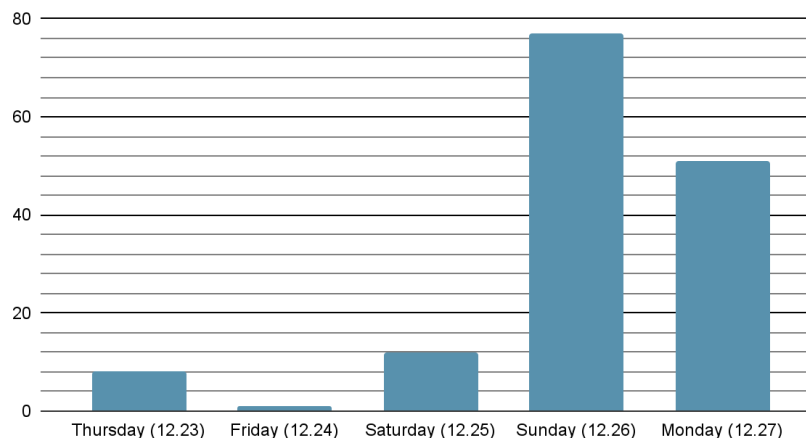
Logistics

The Logistics Section supports the actions of all other emergency response sections. Logistics focuses on procedures for activating, dispatching, distributing, allocating, tracking, and deactivating resources, supplies, and materials needed for emergency and disaster operations.

For the current winter weather response, the Logistics Section's priorities include purchasing, coordinating, and delivering the supplies needed to set-up shelters sites, delivering requested needs to community partners, and supporting DRC sites to acquire supplies throughout the duration of this incident.

The Logistics Section has received over 150 resource requests to support inclement weather operations. Below is a breakdown of resource requests per day:

Resource Request Numbers



Supply Unit

The Supply Unit gathered resources to prepare for winter weather operations. With the assistance of Ground Support and the Resource Request Lead, the Section has staged upwards of 50 pallets of supplemental materials to deliver in support of five shelters, staged dozens of additional pallets of supplies for new shelter sites and is working to deliver any additional supplies needed for operations.

Summary of Supplies

- Clothing Items: Underwear, boots, socks, sweatshirts, pants, hats, gloves: 5,000
- Winter Gear: Tents, sleeping bags, tarps, ponchos: 2,500
- Food Items: Coffee, tea, granola bars, oatmeal, cup o'noodles, snacks, water and breakfast items : 60,000
- Pet Supplies: Food, litter, trays, leashes, kennels, bowls: 250
- Floor Protection Material: Ram board, plastic sheeting, tape and application tools

Food Unit

As of mid-day December 27, Logistics provided 2,150 meals in coordination with our community partners.

The Food Unit is supporting meal services to each of the five open shelters sites. The response is providing meals in coordination with community Partners US Foods, Feed the Mass, Blanchet House, and Stone Soup PDX. The Food Unit has coordinated meals for the shelters through December 31.

Ground Support Unit

Approximately 10 deliveries of materials from various storage facilities to shelters were completed by December 27. The Ground Support Team prepared 10 pallets of materials for delivery to the JOHS Supply Center. JOHS also provided the EOC Logistics Section with a pallet of sani-wipes for shelter use.

The Ground Support Unit has assisted with the distribution of resources to shelter sites during the build-up to operations. The team has transported supply trailers, pallets of supplemental supplies, and completed general transports supporting this incident. The Ground Support Unit will continue to support incoming resource requests for shelters and other critical inclement weather operations throughout the duration of this incident.

Public Health and Emergency Services

Medical Reserve Corps were able to fill medical support roles at three of the six shelter sites on December 27, with staffing constraints limiting coverage.

Emergency department and urgent care visits were at the typical season levels for December 27.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) volumes were lower than average, but hospitals remain in crisis mode due to COVID-19.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers are being recruited to support severe weather shelters throughout the incident between 2:00 pm. - 7:00 pm).

Behavioral Health staff are working with emergency response teams for this incident and are working with a health outreach program. The urgent walk-in clinic is open.

Planning

The planning section provides administrative and documentation support that helps organize the response; and creates situational awareness and the development of a common operating picture. This work helps to inform the priorities and objectives of the response. The Planning Section ensures the accurate documentation of actions taken and continues to provide updates to the tools that connect all partners across the response. This organizational framework aims to reduce duplication and increase efficiency and effectiveness of the cooperative effort of this response.

Stay Informed, Get Help, Get Involved

Activated Call Centers

Call Center	Phone Number	Email	Hours
<u>211 Call Center</u>	211 or 866-698-6155	help@211info.org	Seven days a week, 24 hours a day.
<u>Behavioral Health Call Center</u>	503-988-4888 Toll-free: 800-716-9769 TTY: 711		Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
<u>Aging & Disabilities Resource Connection</u>	503-988-3646	adrc@multco.us	Information and assistance to older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
Multnomah County COVID-19 Call Center	503-988-8939		Information and assistance available on Severe Heat resources, cooling centers, and COVID-19 vaccine and testing sites and business guidance

More questions?

- Consult Multnomah County Care for When It's Cold.
- Contact 211:
 - Call 2-1-1 (open 24/7)
 - Visit 211info
 - Text your zip code to 899211 (standard message and data rates may apply)

Media

For media inquiries related to the December 2021 Winter Weather incident please **contact Julie Sullivan-Springhetti**, Multnomah County Public Information Media Coordinator at: **503-502-2741**.

Document Development Information	
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This is the situation report for 12/27/2021.	