

**Health & Opportunity**  
Weather  
**Code Blue/Grey/Red Process**

During extreme weather conditions the City implements extraordinary measures to preserve the lives of chronically homeless individuals. A Code will be called when the National Weather Bureau predicts weather conditions that could be dangerous to persons living on the streets. The City's response is coordinated through the Health and Opportunity cluster that is comprised of the Office of Supportive Housing, (OSH), the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (DPH); in partnership with the Outreach Coordination Center. The conditions which result in the activation of a Code are as follows:

**Code Blue**

A Code Blue will be called when the National Weather Bureau predicts a wind chill temperature of 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below or precipitation with temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Code Grey**

Code Grey is declared when the National Weather Bureau predicts high winds and or heavy rains or frozen precipitation with temperature above 32°.

**Code Red**

A Code Red is declared if the National Weather Service (NWS) extended weather forecast includes at least three consecutive days of 95° F or above temperatures with high humidity. In these situations, a heat warning is not needed to initiate a Code Red.

**Activation/Deactivation of Code**

When Code weather conditions are expected, OSH and DBH, after receiving the official weather prediction, will concur. DBH will contact the OCC to notify the Center in advance of the expected Code. OSH will contact Municipal Radio to notify them that a Code has been designated. Municipal Radio will then notify those on the Code Contact List.

A Code is deactivated when OSH declares an end to the weather emergency based on information from the National Weather Service that indicates the severe weather conditions no longer exist. OSH initiates the notification process.

**Mobilization Activities**

The activation of a "Code" triggers the mobilization of the street outreach teams to stand ready to assist the homeless 24 hours a day. The "Code" designation puts into effect the City's emergency outreach plan, which is designed to provide 24-hour assistance to homeless individuals who are vulnerable to excessive weather conditions.

The "Code" emergency plan mobilizes outreach teams across the city and pools the talents and resources of public and private agencies to preserve the lives and health of Philadelphia citizens.

The OCC notifies outreach staff of additional resources available during the Code and will direct that word be spread to homeless individuals on the street. If necessary, police stations and/or other public buildings may also be made available for homeless persons during extreme Code conditions. The activation of a code results in the following:

1. Twenty-four hour outreach coverage, to include the teams extending hours until 12 am or later.
2. Access to beds/resources that are available within the existing emergency housing network funded by OSH.
3. Access to beds and resources funded by DBH.
4. Outreach teams and the police implement the COTS (Court Ordered Transportation to Shelter) procedure by alerting the on-call City Solicitor and Common Pleas Court Judge.

**The issuance of a Code allows persons living on the street to remain indoors during the day and prohibits evictions or termination from emergency housing during the Code. Denial only occurs under very serious circumstances and is addressed on a case-by-case basis.**

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OSH- Office of Supportive Housing  
COTS-Court Ordered Transportation to Shelter  
DBH-Department of Behavioral Health  
OCC- Project Home's Outreach Coordination Center