

**From:** Christine Mansfield  
**Subject:** Fwd: Declaration of Emergency - PNW hazards to unsheltered population  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 1:19:29 AM

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## COPY to members of Whatcom County Homeless Strategies Workgroup

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Christine Mansfield**  
**Date:** Tue, Dec 22, 2020, 12:52 AM  
**Subject:** Declaration of Emergency - PNW hazards to unsheltered population  
**To:** Satpal Sidhu , Todd Donovan. Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, Barry Buchanan, Rud Browne, Ben Elenbaas  
**Cc:** ACLU of WA Legal, Michael W. Lilliquist  
Seth Fleetwood

County Executive, Satpal Sidhu and Whatcom County Council,

What is the current status of government planning to initiate response measures to relieve persons at City Hall (also referred to as Camp 210)? Over 100 people in the cold are presenting with symptoms of distress attributed to a lack of shelter and in need of relief. Citizen outreach is relying on county response.

Persons stranded outdoors in tents are at high-risk; PNW cold, rain, snow, and wind pose immediate threat to their well-being. The combination of PNW elements has serious impact to health and safety. People experiencing exposure to the PNW elements with continual ongoing exposure, who are left unsheltered without proper protection, are at high risk of hypothermia, pneumonia, and death.

How does Whatcom County intend to support the sustainability of human life in our region? Where is our emergency response plan for winterization in our area as it pertains to displaced persons?

Where shall we housed citizens direct our unhoused neighbors for dry warm heated safe covering? Where should ANY resident go if stranded outdoors this winter? Where are our local warming centers? What alert system is in place? How are cities activating warming centers in each city region in Whatcom County annually? How is the Dept of Health initiating proper protocol to alert citizens to PNW weather conditions and hazards to promote safety and well-being as part of our general local safety advisory? What is the Whatcom County protocol for securing locations to shelter displaced people in distress?

Does Whatcom County need to request assistance from state and federal government, FEMA, Red Cross, United Way, National Guard, U.S. Army to oversee ACTION to stabilize and sustain a level of humane intervention on behalf of lives at-risk?

The matter at hand is non-negotiable. Lives are at-risk and the citizenry has implored the government sector to initiate humanitarian response to address hazards in real-time.

What is the plan of action for relief? What is the timeline for relief? What is causing inaction to secure functional relief? How are you directing this matter to ensure Whatcom County weather preparedness is inclusive of our most vulnerable citizens who are not in a position to advocate for themselves adequately due to the severity of their situations?

How is Whatcom County initiating a level of response that aligns with the level of critical human need?

Please respond to this message with URGENT PRIORITY in coordination with local citizenry, city government representatives, state government representatives, and federal government representatives for resources to relieve residents in distress in front of Bellingham City Hall. This is not a matter of negotiation or debate; this is a matter of common decency, human sustainability and action. Local citizens are providing emergency care in the absence of Whatcom County preparedness.

Citizens are naturally alarmed and rightfully acknowledging that indefinite inaction means potential loss of life, human suffering caused by gross negligence, and incompetence of Whatcom County elected representatives of the people to act with equitable concern for citizen safety. People without proper heat and proper covering need it! This is a call to action. What is Whatcom County doing to facilitate sheltering relief for the volume of citizens needing it that is currently lacking? Shelter in the PNW is a vital need.

Bellingham, WA  
Whatcom County resident

JC Mansfield