



Daniel A. Champagne  
Mayor

# TOWN OF VERNON

14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CT 06066  
Tel: (860) 870-3600  
Fax: (860) 870-3580  
E-mail: dchampagne@vernon-ct.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Press Contact: Michael J. Purcaro  
(860) 993-5878

## Mayor Champagne to Open Warming Centers

(Vernon, CT) – In anticipation of the bitter cold temperatures and strong winds that are forecasted to result in negative wind chill factors, Mayor Daniel Champagne has announced that warming centers are open for Vernon residents.

*"In consultation with the town's emergency-preparedness staff, I have decided to open warming centers for Vernon residents", said Mayor Champagne. "Those residents needing shelter from the cold weather expected to hit Connecticut can attend the **warming center located at the Vernon Senior Center, 26 Park Place, from 9 am to 4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Monday** or the **warming center located in the Community Room at the Vernon Police Department, 725 Hartford Turnpike, on Saturday and Sunday**", said Champagne. "Our Office of Emergency and Risk Management will continue to monitor the situation and work with local and state partners to assess the need for additional community resources. Additionally, I wish to remind residents of the following tips from the American Red Cross."*

- Avoid unnecessary exposure to the cold and be aware of the temperature and the wind chill when planning outdoor activities. Dressing in layers helps you retain heat. You can remove layers as needed if you become too warm.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite. Keep feet warm and dry and maintain footing in ice and snow.
- Get out of wet clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket or warm fluids.
- Recognize the symptoms of hypothermia, a serious medical condition: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. **Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.**
- Recognize frostbite warning signs: gray, white or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, waxy feeling skin. **Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.**
- Keep apprised of watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service and be proactive in securing basic food and emergency supplies as well as personal medical supplies.
- Avoid **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING**. Always use portable generators, camp stoves, and grills outside and 20 feet away from windows, doors, and vents to prevent deadly CO poisoning.
- Use caution with portable space heaters, placing them at least three feet from anything combustible.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Be careful of extension cords that present hazardous walkways.

###