



# BROOKLINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

*Brookline, Massachusetts*

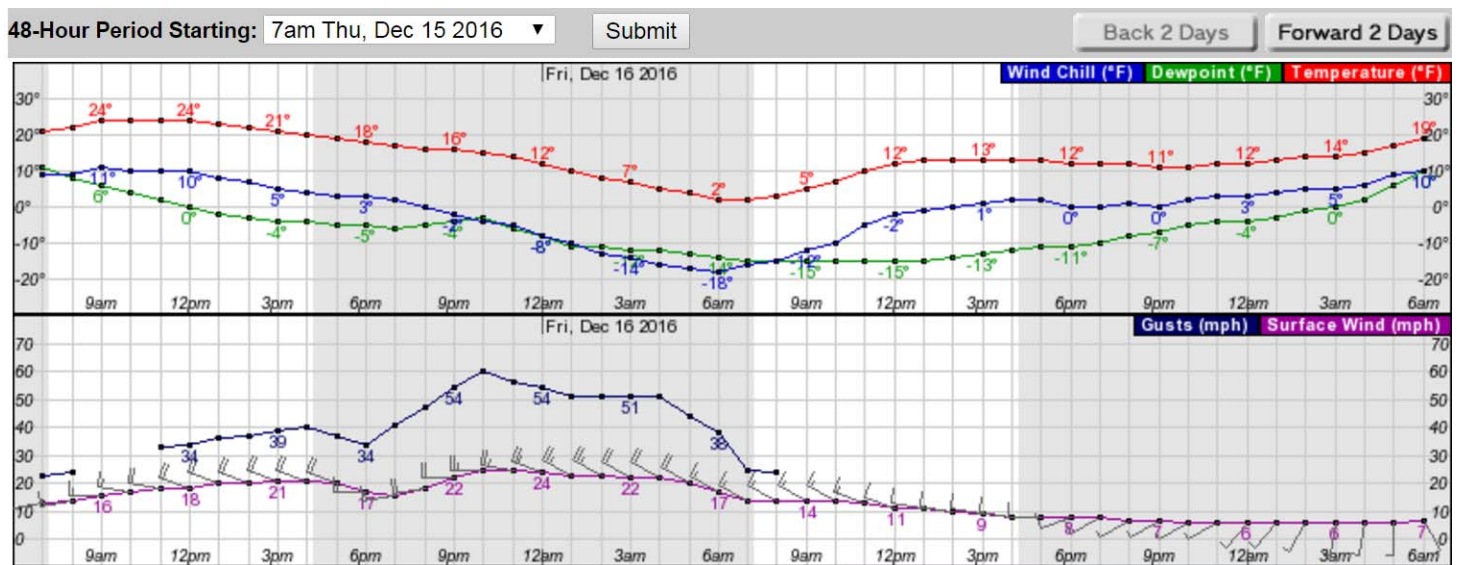
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2016

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Go to [www.brooklinema.gov](http://www.brooklinema.gov) or [www.mass.gov/mema/cold](http://www.mass.gov/mema/cold)  
for more information

## **BROOKLINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFERS TIPS TO DEAL WITH COLD WEATHER**

BROOKLINE, MA – The National Weather Service (NWS) is forecasting extreme cold across our area beginning Thursday night and lasting into Friday morning. Dangerously cold wind chills are forecast as overnight lows drop into the single digits with sustained northwest winds of 15-25 mph and gusts of up to 55 mph possible. Below is the Hourly Forecast Graph for Brookline starting at 7:00 AM Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>:



The Brookline Emergency Management Team (BEMT) is urging residents to take precautions during this time. Prolonged exposure to the cold can lead to serious health issues including frostbite and in extreme cases, hypothermia. Therefore, we urge residents to minimize outside activities. If you must go outside, please follow these safety tips:

**CALL 9-1-1 TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY**  
**COLD WEATHER TIPS – 12/14/2016**

Public Safety Headquarters 350 Washington Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
Telephone (617) 730-2249 ♦ Facsimile (617) 730-8454

- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing, rather than a single layer of heavy clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Wear a hat, mittens (rather than gloves) and sturdy waterproof boots to protect your extremities and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
  - Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, seek medical help immediately.
  - The warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. If the person's body temperature drops below 95 degrees, seek immediate medical care.
- Have a well-stocked Home Emergency Kit that includes a flashlight, sleeping bag or blanket, portable radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, bottled water and non-perishable food. Add seasonal supplies to your emergency kit such as extra winter clothing and blankets.
- Make sure your car is properly winterized. Keep the gas tank at least half-full. Carry a Winter Emergency Car Kit, which includes blankets, extra clothing, a flashlight with spare batteries, a can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for drinking water), non-perishable foods, windshield scraper, shovel, sand, tow rope and jumper cables in the trunk.
- Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, neighbors (especially the elderly), those who live alone, those with medical conditions and those who may need additional assistance.
- Limit outdoor time for your pets. Freezing temperatures are dangerous to animals as well as humans.
- Wrap pipes in insulation or layers of newspapers covered with plastic to keep them from freezing. Allow a trickle of warm water to run from a faucet that is farthest from your water meter or one that has frozen in the past. This will keep the water moving so that it cannot freeze. If pipes freeze, remove insulation, completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes or wrap them with towels soaked in hot water, starting where they are most exposed to the cold. A hair dryer, used with caution, works well to thaw pipes.
- Although temperatures may be cold, bodies of water covered in ice are likely unsafe given recent temperature fluctuations. Residents are urged to stay off frozen bodies of water until ice is at least 4" thick.

Ensure you have sufficient heating fuel, as well as alternate emergency heating equipment in case you lose electricity. When utilizing alternate heating sources, such as an emergency generator, your fireplace, wood stove or space heater, take necessary safety precautions:

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and ensure everyone knows how to use it properly.
- Never heat your home with a gas stove or oven or charcoal barbecue grill.

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- Make sure all heating devices are properly ventilated and always operate a generator outdoors and away from your home. Improper heating devices can lead to dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in the home. Make sure you test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause flulike illness or death. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, call 9-1-1 immediately, get the victim to fresh air, and open windows.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from space heaters.

If you need a warming center, the following public buildings are available:

<b><u>Location:</u></b>	<b><u>Address:</u></b>	<b><u>Time:</u></b>
Brookline Public Safety Building Community Room	350 Washington Street	24 hrs a day, 7 days a week
The Public Libraries of Brookline	Brookline Village / Main: 361 Washington St	Thursday: 11 am – 9 pm Friday: 10 am – 5 pm
	Coolidge Corner Branch: 31 Pleasant St	Thursday: 11 am – 9 pm Friday: 9:30 am – 5 pm
	Putterham Branch: 959 West Roxbury Pkwy	Thursday: 11 am – 6 pm Friday: 10 am – 5 pm

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