

## **STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY ADULT CARE FACILITIES IN COLD WEATHER**

1. Maintain heating systems in good working order in accordance with program regulations [Adult Homes 487.11(k)(9), Enriched Housing Program 488.11(g)(9) and Residences for Adults 490.11(i)(9)].
2. Routinely monitor the temperature in the facilities when the outdoor temperature is below 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Celsius) to assure the inside temperature in residents' bedrooms and all common areas is maintained at the temperature stated in regulation [487.11(m), 488.11(i) and 490.11(n)] for your type of ACF.
3. If there are areas that fall below the required indoor temperature required by regulation, residents must be moved to common areas that meet the proper temperature. The area must be of sufficient size to safely accommodate the residents.
4. If the minimum temperature is not sustained, the emergency plan must be activated.
5. All staff should be familiar with the policies and procedures and know when to implement them.
6. All staff should be familiar with the symptoms of cold-related conditions and their management.
7. Check all doors/windows for drafts. Eliminate drafts when possible by drawing curtains/shades on days when the temperatures are below freezing. Encourage residents to sit away from windows/drafts.
8. Encourage residents to wear appropriate winter clothing while indoors and to dress in layers with appropriate outerwear when leaving the building. Residents should always wear a hat or ear covering and gloves when going outdoors.
9. Encourage residents not to partake in outdoor activities for extended periods of time.
10. Offer warm fluids/beverages to residents during the winter months.
11. The whereabouts of all residents must be accounted for as required by each program's regulations [Adult Homes 487.7(d)(i)(1), Enriched Housing Program 488.7(b)(i)(1), and Residences for Adults 490.7(d)(i)(iv)].