



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OPEN

To protect the unhoused from a severe weather system and possible flooding, temporary protective severe weather shelters will open overnight on Monday, Dec. 30 and Tuesday Dec. 31. The shelter system is the result of a collaboration between the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, and City of Watsonville.

Severe weather shelters at the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Veterans Halls will operate as an overnight shelter from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. on Dec. 30 and 31. Shelter operations will then be reassessed for further operation.

Lineup for shelter services begins one hour prior to shelters openings. The sites will be operated by [People First of Santa Cruz County](#). *Capacity is limited.*

The following sites will provide shelter:

Santa Cruz Veterans Hall

846 Front Street
Santa Cruz

Watsonville Veterans Hall

215 East Beach Street
Watsonville

Beds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference for people with disabilities and those experiencing significant health/safety risk sleeping outdoors.

Guests will be provided with cots, blankets, and ready-to-eat meals. Pets are allowed if they are leashed and can be kept under voice control. No aggressive animals will be allowed at shelter sites.

Food will be available once intakes and bed assignments are completed. Belongings must fit in small storage areas near bed assignments.