

For Immediate Release

For further information:

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Central Vermont Winter Preparedness Plans Being Put in Place

Central Vermont Food, Fuel and Transportation Preparedness Coalition (CVWPC)

Focuses on Winter and Long-Term Preparedness:

- **Food**
- **Weatherization**
- **Transportation**
- **Shelters**
- **Communication and Education**

A Central Vermont food, fuel, and transportation winter and long term preparedness coalition is now in place. Forty or more representatives of towns, state agencies, non-profits, service providers and faith communities met on July 25th to organize their efforts to assure that Central Vermonters are not cold, hungry or without transportation this winter to the extent possible. The Central Vermont Food, Fuel and Transportation Winter Preparedness Coalition (CVWPC) is working to understand what individual groups throughout the region are currently doing, to assess gaps in meeting needs and to begin to initiate collaborative efforts to assist Central Vermonters in caring for themselves and their neighbors.

Five action teams have been established. They are: food, weatherization, transportation, shelters, and communication and education.

- ✓ The food group is looking at food swaps, preservation and processing events in local community kitchens. It will also be working on on-going food drives for local food shelves.
- ✓ The weatherization group will be working with the Central Vermont Community Action Council to put on programs which will teach individuals how to weatherize their homes. They are also looking into purchasing weatherization materials at low costs.
- ✓ The shelter team will be working on helping people who cannot afford to heat their homes find safe shelter—and protect their homes from the problems of freezing.
- ✓ The transportation group will focus on current public transportation programs and reaching out to people who may not be aware of ride sharing opportunities.
- ✓ The communication group will organize the information that has been developed on food, fuel and transportation and make it available to towns in Central Vermont. It will

be developing information to be distributed to Central Vermonters about how they can help each other—and where help is available.

Many resources are available to help people take care of themselves through the winter. These resources will be updated as additional services and information are made available.

IF there is an emergency, you should call 9-1-1.

IF you are seeking information or non-emergency assistance, you should dial 2-1-1.

VT. 2-1-1 is a service that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Simply dial 2-1-1 and an operator will provide you with accurate information about state, regional and community resources.

IF you are a senior and need help, call the Senior Helpline: 1-800-642-5119

IF you have access to the internet, you can also log on to the following sites:

State:

www.HelpForVT.org

www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/energyhome.htm

Regional:

www.cvcac.org or call CVCAC at 479-1053

gmunitedway@madriver.com or call Green Mountain United Way at 223-9532

Area Transportation:

www.gmtaride.org or call GMTA at 223-7287

Area Food Shelves:

www.vtfoodbank.org or contact Green Mountain United Way for a brochure

The Winter Preparedness Team will meet again on September 3 from 1 to 4 pm at the United Way Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike, Berlin. If you are interested in attending call Kate at Green Mountain United Way at 223-9532 or by email at gmunitedway@madriver.com.

For further information, contact either Pat McDonald at 476-8411 or patmcdonald8411@charter.net or Mary Hooper at 793-9512 or maryhooper@verizon.net. McDonald and Hooper are co-chairs of the Communication and Education Action Team.

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