



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Public Advisory No. 02-2019

Severe Winter Weather Advisory for the Filipinos in the Midwest

Filipinos living in the US Midwest are once again advised to take extra precautions for severe winter weather expected this week, especially late tonight, January 29, and Wednesday, January 30, as cold temperatures could hit a record low of minus 25, with a wind chill factor of minus 50-55 and 30 mph wind gusts, according to the National Weather Service. The dangerous, falling temperatures caused by an arctic blast could approach the lowest temperature ever recorded in Chicago, which was minus 27 on January 20, 1985.

Following are the weather expert's advice:

1. Limit time exposure outdoors as prolonged exposure to colds could be life-threatening. The risks of frostbite and hypothermia could happen in a few minutes of exposure to extreme colds;
2. Allow extra travel time to make allowance for traffic and train delays;
3. If driving a car, keep emergency supplies and winter survival kits, including blankets and flare, inside vehicles; check road conditions; and inform someone of expected time of arrival;
4. Air travelers should monitor airline websites, and commuters should check bus and train schedules for last-minute changes or shortened operation hours;
5. Any resident in Chicago without heat or in need of shelter should call 311 immediately for assistance. Renters with no heating facility should notify their landlords, then 311;
6. Homeowners should check water pipes for possible freezing. Open faucets, if necessary, to keep water from freezing;
7. Exercise fire safety and monitor portable heaters, extension cords and ensure that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working;
8. Avoid unnecessary travel; and
9. If consular service needs are not urgent, wait until next week, or when the temperature has improved, to come to the Consulate.

The Philippine Consulate General will have regular consular hours this week, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., **except Wednesday, January 30, when the office will be CLOSED the whole day**, for the safety of our public and our personnel, due to the frigid and severe weather conditions.

In case of emergency, the Philippine Consulate in Chicago can be reached during weekends and after office hours through its emergency phone number: (312) 800-3106.

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