

Advisory for Cold Wave 2023-24

STATE LEVEL

- State governments must prepare and customize their Cold Wave Action plans as per NDMA guidelines 2021, which have already been circulated to all concerned vide NDMA letter No. 16/13/2021-RR dated 27th October, 2021 and also uploaded on the NDMA website. (<https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/Guidelines/Guidelines-on-Cold-Wave-and-Frost.pdf>)
- Cold Wave Action Plan of the State may be circulated to all Collectors & HoDs of concerned line departments with instructions for its implementation.
- Integrate training sessions on Cold Wave management as part of other official training programmes at various line departments. Shelter Management including essential supplies and medicines may be added into training program for local administrations.
- States must appoint a Nodal Officer at each level (State, district and Block levels) for communicating impact based early warning and implementation of Cold Wave.
- Warnings may be disseminated by using SMSs, WhatsApp etc. as required
- State government must review and monitor the Cold wave situation with concerned line departments / districts / blocks.
- Identification and first-aid of cold disorders in both human beings and animals need to be addressed under all campaigns and programmes on cold waves.
- Setting up of bonfire or Alav at public places.
- Setting up special shelters for unorganized daily workers with proper facilities.
- Mass awareness campaigns involving print, TV, radio, social media, etc., reaching out to all the vulnerable areas / regions / States.
- Put up display boards with colour coding for Cold Wave alert at different locations.
- Publish IEC print material (print material, radio jingles and TVCs) in regional language.

DISTRICT LEVEL / LOCAL LEVEL

- Undertake necessary steps to prevent Cold Wave-related illness and deaths.
- Hold regular Press conferences on the risks and dangers of Cold wave-related illnesses.
- Activate “warm centres” at public places and urge NGOs, community groups and individuals to open warm centres at public places.
- First-aid of cold disorders in both human beings and animals need to be addressed under all campaigns on cold waves.
- Urge power companies to prioritise maintaining power supply to critical facilities (such as hospitals and PHCs / CHCs).
- Conduct regular training and awareness programmes of cold wave including demonstrating the safety tips in their local language, using local customs, cultural aspects.
- Carry out special awareness programmes for specific occupations (farmers, horticulturists, livestock reapers, construction & other outdoor workers, etc.) them aware of impacts and the preventive and curative measures to be adopted in the event of a cold wave.
- Undertake carry out mass awareness campaign in local languages and to inform and educate the public on Cold Wave Do’s and Don’ts.

Cold Wave / Frost

Do's and Don'ts

Before

- Listen to the radio, watch TV, read newspapers for local weather forecast to know if a cold wave is round the corner.
- Stock adequate winter clothing. Multiple layers of clothing are more helpful.
- Keep emergency supplies ready.
- An increased likelihood of various illnesses like flu, running / stuffy nose or nosebleed, which usually set in or get aggravated due to prolonged exposure to cold. Consult the doctor immediately for such symptoms.

During

- Follow weather information closely and act as advised..
- Stay indoors and minimize travel to prevent exposure to cold wind.
- Keep yourself dry, wear multiple layers of loose fitting woollen clothing, cover your head, neck, hands and toes adequately.
- Eat healthy food, fruits and vegetables rich in Vitamin-C to maintain adequate immunity and equilibrium of body temperature.
- Drink hot fluids regularly, as this will maintain body heat to fight cold.
- Store essential supply of goods as per requirement and adequate water as pipes may freeze.
- Take care of elderly people and children and check neighbours who live alone.
- Do not burn coal indoors for generating heat-closed spaces could be dangerous as it can produce carbon monoxide which is very poisonous and can kill persons in the room.
- Watch out for symptoms of frostbite like numbness, white or pale appearance on fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose, while exposed to cold wave.
- Someone suffering from Frostbite / Hypothermia-like a decrease in body temperature which can cause shivering, difficulty in speaking, sleepiness, stiff muscles, heavy breathing, weakness and / or loss of consciousness. Hypothermia is a medical emergency that needs immediate medical attention.
- Consult doctor immediately for symptoms like various illnesses, running / stuffy nose.

In the case of hypothermia:

- Get the person into a warm place and change clothes.
- Warm the person's body with skin-to-skin contact, dry layers of blankets, clothes, towels or sheets.
- Give warm drinks to help increase body temperature. Do not give alcohol.
- Seek medical attention if the condition worsens.

Don'ts:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to cold.
- Don't drink alcohol that reduces body temperature; and narrows blood vessels, particularly in hands, which can increase the risk of hypothermia.
- Do not massage the frostbitten area. This can cause more damage.
- Do not ignore shivering. It is the first sign that the body is losing heat-get indoors
- Do not give the affected person any fluids unless fully alert.

AGRICULTURE

Do's and Don'ts

Cold wave and frost damages crops by causing illnesses including diseases of black rust, white rust, late blight etc. Cold wave also causes a variety of physiological disruptions in germination, growth, flowering, yield and storage life.

Do's

- Undertake curative measures for cold illness / injury like spray with Bordeaux mixture or Copper Oxi-chloride, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) to activate better root growth.
- Do light and frequent surface irrigations (high specific heat of water) during the cold wave wherever it is possible.
- Use sprinkler irrigation (condensation-release heat into surrounding), if possible.
- Cultivate cold / frost resistant plants / crops / varieties.
- Use intercropping farming in the horticulture and orchards.
- Mixed cropping of vegetables, viz., tomato, brinjal with a tall crop like mustard / pigeon pea will provide necessary shelter against cold winds (shelter against cold).
- Increase radiation absorption and provide warmer thermal regime through covering of nursery and young fruit plants during winter by plastic or by making thatches (jhuggies) of straw or sarkanda grass etc.
- Organic mulching (for thermal insulation).
- Planting of wind breaks / shelter belts (to reduce wind speed).

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY / LIVESTOCK

Do's and Don'ts

During Cold Wave, animals and livestock require more food for sustenance as the energy requirement goes up. Extreme variations in temperature may affect the fertility rate in animals during the optimum breeding season for buffaloes / cattle.

Do's

- Cover the animal habitat from all sides during night in order to avoid direct exposure of cold winds.
- Protect and cover livestock and poultry from cold weather by keeping them inside
- Improving livestock feeding practice and dietary additives.
- Use of high-quality forage or pastures.
- Provide fat supplements – concentrate ratio on feed intake, feeding, and chewing behaviour.
- Construction of climate smart sheds which allow maximum sunlight during winters and low radiation during summers.
- Apply some bedding materials such as dry straw under animals during winters.
- Selecting animal breeds especially fit for these conditions.

Don'ts

- Do not leave animals tied / roam in open area during cold wave

- Avoid animal fares (pashumela) during cold wave
- Avoid giving cold feed and cold water to the animals
- Avoid dampness and smoke in animal shelter
- Carcasses of dead animals should not be discarded on the regular grazing routes of the animals.

List of Secretary in-charge of Disaster Management of States/ UTs

Principal Secretary, Disaster Management Department, Government of Bihar, Sardar Patel Bhawan, C-Block, Nehru Path, Patna – 800023	Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority, UT of Chandigarh, Estate Office Building, Near Central State Library, Sector- 17, Chandigarh – 160017
Divisional Commissioner & Secretary Revenue Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, 5 Shamnath Marg, Delhi – 110054	Commissioner & Secretary, Revenue & DM Department, Govt of Chhattisgarh, Room No – S/2, New Raipur Dev. Authority, Mahanadi Bhawan, Capital Complex Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Raipur – 492002
Relief Commissioner and CEO GSDMA, Revenue Department, Government of Gujarat, Block No – 11, 5 th Floor, New Secretariat, Gandhinagar – 382010	Financial Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management, Government of Haryana, R. No. 110, 1 st Floor, New Secretariat Building, Sector -17, Chandigarh – 160017
Principal Secretary (Revenue-DM), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Room No. A – 501, 5 th Floor, Armsdale Building, HP Secretariat, Shimla – 171002	Secretary (Rev & DM), 2nd Floor, UT Secretariat, Leh-Ladakh
Secretary Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar – 190001	Secretary-Home & Coordinator – MPSDMA, Department of Home, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Ballabh Bhawan, Mantralaya, Bhopal – 462004
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