

January 31, 2023

Dear Skidmore Community,

Please be aware that the National Weather Service has issued a **Hazardous Weather Outlook for the Saratoga Springs area for later this week. The alert states, "There is the potential for dangerously cold wind chills Friday into Saturday due to a combination of bitterly cold temperatures and gusty winds."** The low temperature on Friday is forecasted to be -12 (F) and on Saturday the low is -17 (F). These temperatures do not include wind chill. Please review the following recommendations and information closely:

- Community members should be aware **all windows and doors should be shut completely from Thursday evening until Monday.** Temperatures in this range can cause frostbite to exposed skin, even if exposed for only a short period of time.
- Community members are strongly encouraged to wear hats, gloves, and face coverings when outdoors.
- Individuals with animals on campus should make provisions for their animal.
- Vehicles will require longer periods to warm up. Vehicles with underperforming batteries may not start at these low temperatures. Campus Safety can assist with jump starts.
- Occasionally, sustained low temperatures can cause water main failures in the surrounding community.
- Facilities Services staff will be on campus to address icy stairs and walkways, but please note that ice melting products are less effective at the very low temperatures forecasted. **Please use caution when walking around campus.**

With the low temperatures arriving on the weekend, students may want to carefully evaluate their recreational plans. Our colleagues in Health Promotions advise that because alcohol is a **vasodilator** (meaning vessels expand bringing more blood to the extremities). Those drinking in colder temperatures have a **false sense of warmth**. Alcohol consumption 1) **delays the onset of shivering** in cold temperatures and, 2) **reduces its duration**. i.e. your body isn't giving you the signals that you are cold—your body stops shivering before you have restored balance to your temperature. Freezing temperatures and alcohol use are a dangerous combination and we encourage student to be safe and to look out for each other.

If you encounter or notice a safety related issue please report it promptly to Campus Safety at 518-580-5567. Housing and Facilities related issues can be reported to Residence Life (518-580-5765) or Facilities (518-580-5860) during business hours on Friday, for events after hours and weekends call Campus Safety. Please pay attention to any community alerts issued in the coming days.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

**Tim Munro**

Director

The Department of Campus Safety

Skidmore College

Lower Level of Jonsson Tower

815 North Broadway

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

518-580-5567 (NON-Emergencies)

518-580-5566 (EMERGENCIES)

518-580-8477 (TIPS Hotline) 518-580-7669 (WEATHER Hotline)