

Response to Homelessness During Extreme Weather

Public Safety & Neighborhood Services
March 7, 2019



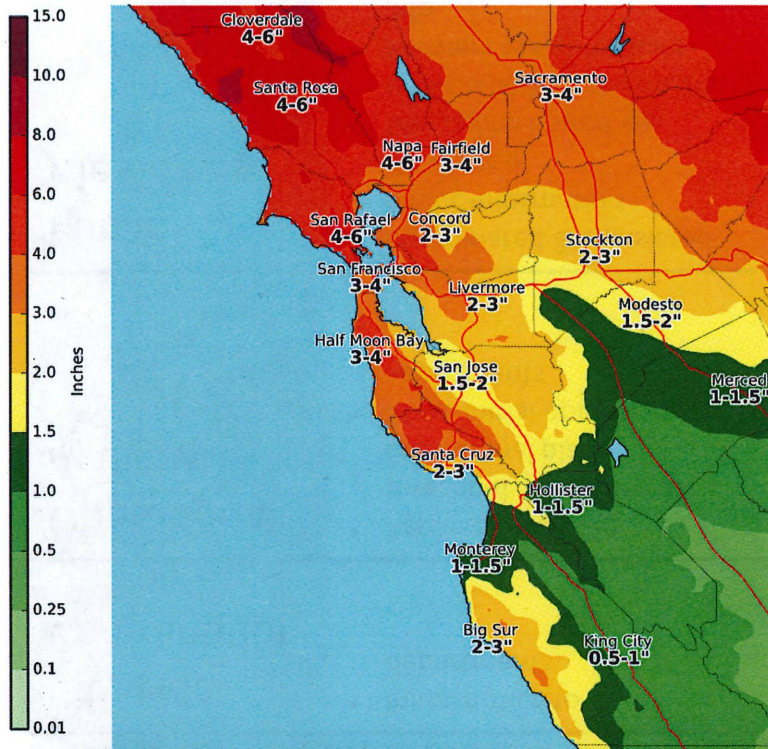
Emergency Planning & Coordination: Atmospheric River Case Study



SF72.org

Storm Total Rain MON-THU

Valid: 02/25/2019 04:00 AM - 02/28/2019 04:00 AM PST

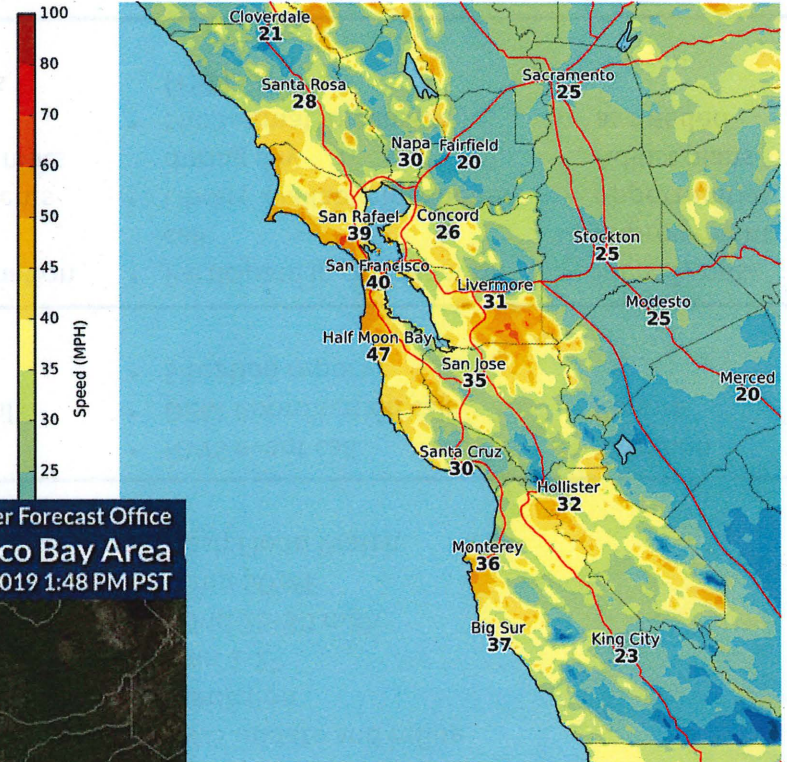


Atmospheric River

Feb 25 – 27, 2019

Wind Gusts Tuesday Night

Valid: 02/26/2019 10:00 PM - 02/27/2019 01:00 AM PST



FLASH FLOOD WATCH

MONDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH LATE TUESDAY NIGHT

Weather Forecast Office
San Francisco Bay Area
Issued Feb 24, 2019 1:48 PM PST

Hazards

Flash
Flood
Watch

Forecast rainfall totals Monday through Tuesday night.

- 1 to 2 inches in the Santa Clara Valley
- 2 to 4 inches near the coast and Bay shoreline
- 4 to 6 inches in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



National Weather Service
San Francisco Bay Area
02/24/2019 05:17 AM PST

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)
weather.gov/sanfrancisco

City Actions

	Prepare and Mitigate		Respond	Recover
	Sun -48 hrs	Mon AM -12 hrs	Mon PM – Wed AM Event	Wed PM +12 hrs
Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS notification of significant event Rain 4-6" Wind 40 mph Temp 50's°F 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS update and refine prediction Rain 3-5" Wind 40-50 mph Temp 50's°F Flash Flood Watch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS update and refine prediction Rain 1-2" Wind 25-30 mph Temp 50's°F Flash Flood Watch 	
Citywide Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial notice to departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS event call DEM Coordination call Situation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS event call DEM Coordination call Situation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation Report
Operational Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies evaluate thresholds identified in operational plans Make initial operational adjustments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in coordination call Operational adjustments Expansion of shelter mats (+50) Deploy flood barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in coordination call Library available for shelter during day Shelter mat expansion (+50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ops improvement opportunities Adjust plans as needed
Public Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated & translated public information developed Messaging issued via traditional & social media Partners asked to share info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AlertSF & social media used for storm-specific safety info City service providers asked to inform at-risk populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public messaging reissued & refined as needed Partners & City service providers given updated public info as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine public messaging & outreach strategies as needed

Public Storm Safety & Preparedness Information

12:37

888-777

Mon, Feb 25, 2:18 PM

ALERTSF: Flash flood watch Monday afternoon - Tuesday night. In San Francisco, areas that typically experience flooding during heavy rains may flood

Tue, Feb 26, 7:09 PM

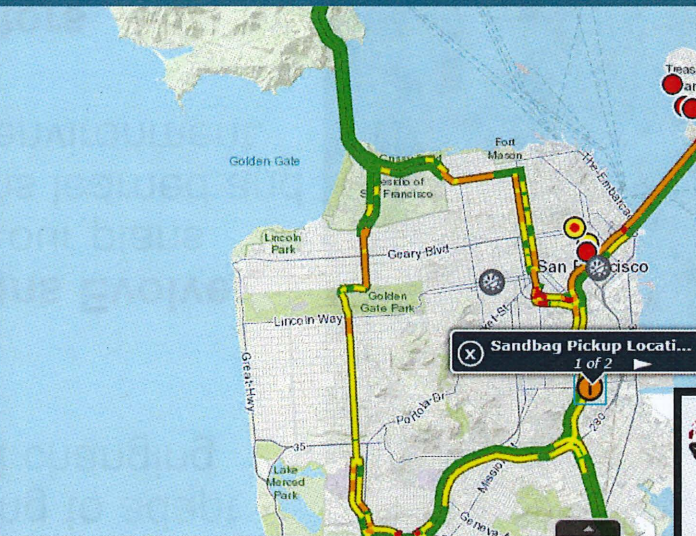
ALERTSF: Flash Flood Watch remains in place through 4AM Wednesday in SF. This means areas prone to flooding during heavy rains may flood.

SF CityNow

In an emergency, this page will be your real-time information hub.

You'll find official updates, crowdsourced reports, and a crisis map to navigate city Emergency Mode to better understand how to use it in the event of an emergency.

Text your zip code to 888-777 to sign up for emergency text alerts from AlertSF.



Wet Weather Safety Tips

- Prepare for storms by clearing storm water basins, using sandbags, and your finding flash lights and extra batteries.
- San Francisco Public Works provide up to 10 free sandbags leading up to and during severe rainstorms. Sandbags are distributed Monday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the [Public Work Operations Yard \(Marin Street/Kansas Street Gate\)](#). Bring proof of address. Sandbags are also sold at many local hardware and home improvement stores.

Dept of Emergency Mgmt (DEM), San Francisco Department of Emergen...

Flash Flood Watch and Wet Weather Safety Tips

The National Weather Service has issued a Flash Flood Watch from Monday afternoon through late Tuesday night. In San Francisco, areas that typically experience flooding during heavy rains may flood. A Wind Advisory is also in effect 12:00 PM Monday to 2:00 AM Tuesday. Winds 25 to 35 MPH with gusts up to 50. See more...



Edited 25 Feb · Posted Feb 25, 2019 · Subscribers of San Francisco Department of Emergency Management

Reply



30 · 17097 Impressions

San Francisco Department of Emergency Management

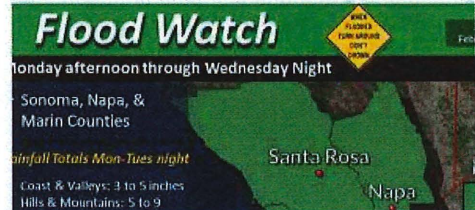
San Francisco, California.

Published by Dem Duty Officer [?] · February 25

The US National Weather Service San Francisco California has issued a Flash Flood Watch from Monday afternoon through late Tuesday night:

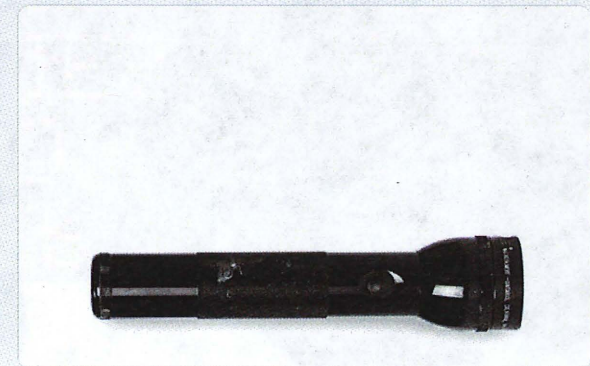
In San Francisco, California, areas that typically experience heavy rains may flood.

Winds 25 to 35 MPH with gusts up to 50 MPH.



San Francisco DEM · @SF_emergency · Feb 26

The heaviest rain in #SF is expected late Tuesday night to early Wednesday morning. If the power goes out, unplug & turn off appliances. Leave 1 light on to signal when power is restored. Ensure you have flashlights & extra batteries. Do not use flame-lit candles. [sf72.org](#)



London Breed, SF Water Power Sewer, SF Public Works and 7 others

1

27

34

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Emergency Plans & Protocols

- **Emergency Plans are Dynamic:** We must be flexible and willing to adapt the plan to meet changing conditions.
- **Emergency Plans Evolve:** We must revise our plans based on lessons learned and changes in the environment.
- **Numerous Factors Influence Thresholds & Actions:** Lessons learned, subject matter experts, best practices and available resources.



Evolving Plans: Emergency plans are revised based on lessons learned from incidents and exercises.

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Weather Response

- Prior to Winter: DEM, DPH, HSA and HSH identified thresholds that would prompt weather response.

Winter 2018-2019 Thresholds:

- Temperatures forecast to drop to or below 40 degrees for two consecutive days or longer, OR
- Rainfall forecast to be 1.5 inches or more each day for two consecutive days, OR
- Rainfall forecast to be 0.75 inches or more on each of three or more consecutive days or longer, OR
- Forecasts of temperatures to drop to or below 45 degrees AND rainfall to be 0.5 inches or more AND winds of more than 30 miles per hour all within the same 24 hour period for one or more days.

Activation of Inclement Weather Protocol

DEM & HSH Track Weather Forecast → Threshold Met

- HSH activates shelter expansion
- HSH identifies 2 existing shelters to expand – MSC & Next Door
- HSH prepares & distributes notifications about expanded services across the city.
- Mats available 8pm-7am
- HSH strives to give shelters 24 hour notice to expand

Weather Forecast Threshold Met

- HSH + providers expand mats
- HSH activates the SF Homeless Outreach Team for extra outreach, transport & response
- SF HOT increases staffing and hours during these response periods
- HSH prepares & distributes notifications about expanded services across the city
- Notifies 311 and the MSC-South Drop-In center
- 311 able to make one-night reservations
- HSH notifies the Healthy Streets Operations Center about the expansion & how to access beds/mats.

Threshold Met & 90% of mats occupied:

- HSH opens 1 or more pop-up shelters / warming centers
- Pop-up shelters are managed with support of partner city departments.
- In sites not typically used as shelters
- Outfit the sites with required equipment and supplies
- Coordinate client transportation
- HSH prepares & distributes notifications about expanded services across the city.

2018-2019 Inclement Weather Activations

- **Nov – March**
 - Interfaith winter shelter program ~70 mats
- **January – March 31**
 - 25 expansion mats at MSC-South all winter long
- **Dec 31 – Jan 1 (Average of .4 inches of rain per day)**
 - Added 50 more mats (39% occupancy)
- **Feb 1-5 (Average of .4 inches of rain per day)**
 - Added 50 more mats (51% occupancy)
- **Feb 8-17 (Average of .4 inches of rain per day)**
 - Added 50 more mats (85% occupancy)
- **Feb 13-14 (Average of .7 inches of rain per day)**
 - Opened a pop-up shelter with 80 additional cots (80% occupied)
 - Big thanks to the Salvation Army for the space
 - SFMTA provided transportation
 - SF HOT provided support and triage on the buses during transport.
 - St. Vincent De Paul provided staffing for the two evenings of operation
- **Feb 25-26 (Average of 1.1 inches of rain per day)**
 - Added 50 more mats (89% occupied)

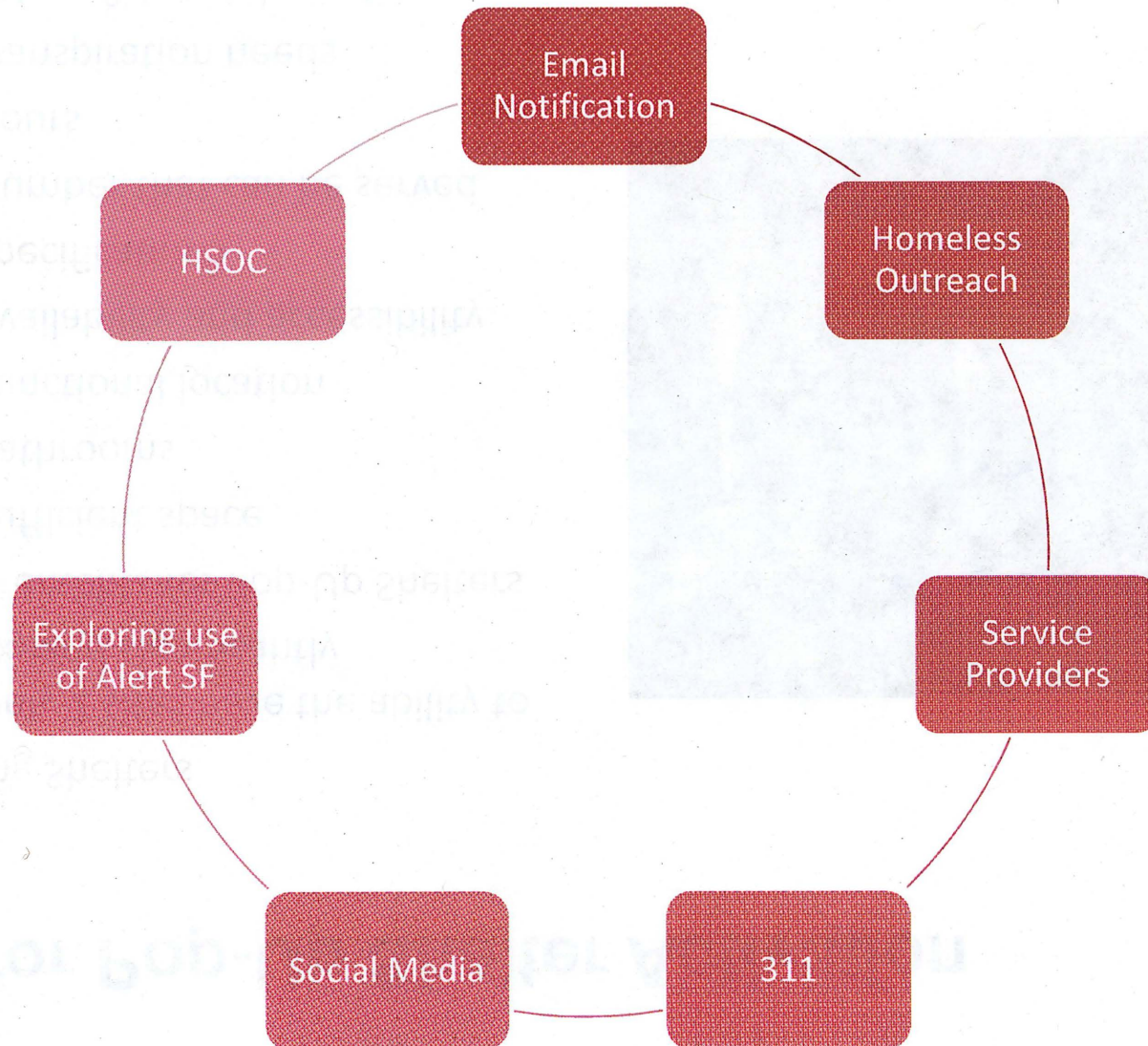


HOT Activation During Storms*

- Since January:
 - 55 navigation center placements
 - 85 transports to shelter
 - ~250 storm related encounters
 - Staffed shelter shuttles
- Since January distributed:
 - 1160 Ponchos
 - 1800 Emergency blankets
 - 860 Articles of clothing

In addition to HOT's other daily activities

Communication



Sites for Pop-Up Shelter Activation

1) Existing Shelters

- Only 2 sites have the ability to expand significantly

2) Requirements for Pop-Up Shelters

- Sufficient space
- Bathrooms
- Functional location
- Availability and accessibility

3) Site Specifications

- Number that can be served
- Hours
- Transpiration needs
- Set up & breakdown time
- Staffing needs



Cost

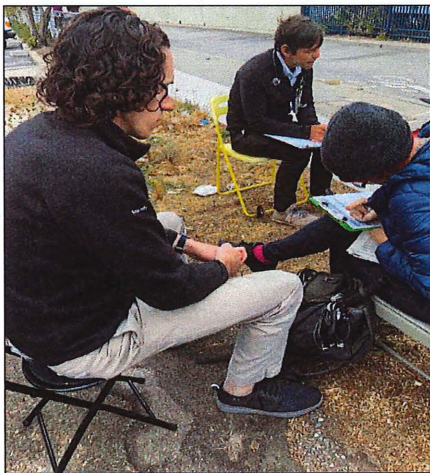
- ~\$100 per sleeping space per night for emergency expansion
- The expansion costs are high compared to regular shelter operations as the **short notification and daily set-up/tear-down** requires extra staff and overtime.
- In HSH's current budget, we have **\$262,000** earmarked to support expansion mats and Pop-Up shelters.
- The overall cost of Pop-Up shelters depends greatly upon the specific site, the components needed for that site, transportation, staffing, and other factors that are hard to determine in advance.
- These costs are often spread across **multiple departments**.
- Additional costs to HOT and MTA.

Proposed Changes for FY 2019-2020

- Throughout winter 2018-19 shelter and outreach activations occurred without the previously established thresholds being met.
- Therefore, HSH is proposing revised activation thresholds as follows:
 - Temperatures forecast to drop to or below 40 degrees for two consecutive days or longer, OR
 - Rainfall forecast to be 0.75 inches in one day or a cumulative total of 1.5 inches in 2 consecutive days, OR
 - Temperatures forecast to drop to or below 45 degrees for two consecutive days or longer when accompanied by 0.5 inches of rain and/or winds of 20 miles per hour or greater within the same period.
- Exploring increasing the expansion capacity to ~200 mats

Department of Public Health

Medical Resources & Support: In addition to monitoring a number of other impacts, DPH also provides medical resources as needed to support care for HSH's sheltered clients.





Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

Where Can I go?

Homeless, Unsheltered, and Alone

Coalition on Homelessness

Current City Policy: “Unsheltered and Alone”

- Confiscation of tents and citations continue throughout the cold and rain.
 - Accessing beds require long-waits or 311 reservations.
 - Only 25-75 mats are added during winter protocol to the existing stock of 2,500 shelter beds for a nightly population of over 7,000 homeless in SF.
The shelter wait-list for a 90-day bed is 1,364 as of today, March 7.
 - During unhealthy air events masks are not available in adequate supply .
 - Those on the streets are often not made aware when or where additional shelter is offered and how to access it.
-

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UoTLcq6TfU&feature=youtu.be>

Severe Weather Protocol Recommendations

#1: Ban sweeps and property confiscations

- **Pass legislation that bans homeless sweeps, property confiscation, and the confiscation of tents and improvised structures.**
 - As many shelters are inadequate placements for homeless people (and, particularly, the most vulnerable homeless people) and it is unlikely we will have space for 4,500 people, it is essential that homeless people can retain their survival gear.
-

#2: Lower and simplify threshold

THE WAY IT IS NOW

Forecasted Thresholds that trigger activation for Cold and / or Wet Weather procedures:

- The forecasts of temperature and rain meet one or more of the following conditions:
- Temperatures forecast to drop to or below 40 degrees for two consecutive days or longer, OR
- Rainfall forecast to be 1.5 inches or more each day for two consecutive days, OR
- Rainfall forecast to be 0.75 inches or more on each of three or more consecutive days or longer, OR
- Forecasts of temperatures to drop to or below 45 degrees AND rainfall to be 0.5 inches or more AND winds of more than 30 miles per hour all within the same 24 hour period for one or more days.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Activate the protocol at 50 degrees or when there is a 50% chance of rain, based on the National Weather Service.

#3: Keep shelters open 24/7

THE WAY IT IS NOW

- Pop-up mats are open between 8pm to 7am
- Family emergency shelters have limited hours from 3 pm to 7 am

PROPOSED CHANGE

When the protocol is activated, provide funding for emergency staff to keep all shelters open 24/7. When that is not possible, establish temporary emergency drop-in centers or ensure access in existing drop-in centers for the adults and families who have no access to daytime shelter and safety.

#4: Allow clients to go directly to shelters to receive a bed

THE WAY IT IS NOW

- Clients must go to MSC-South, located on 5th and Bryant St. to reserve a bed
- OR
- Call 311 to reserve a bed *anytime after 8pm!*

PROPOSED CHANGE

When the protocol is activated, allow clients to go directly to shelters and receive a bed.

#5: Expand winter shelter mats through the winter shelter program.

- Runs from November to March
 - This currently adds 50 mats to the shelter system
 - Serve more than just men
-

#6: Expand shelter access in predetermined locations that are available on the first night of the emergency.

- Current shelters
 - Drop-in centers
 - School Gymnasiums
 - Churches, etc.
-

#7: Develop plan to stock and distribute masks

In the case of poor air quality alerts, ensure all community based organizations and homeless people on the streets have enough masks to distribute three per day per person. Order a sufficient quantity ahead of time and have in storage to be distributed on the first day of disaster. Have a distribution plan in place that includes pick-up locations broadly advertised and available on social media year round, and activate those locations as soon as disaster occurs. Masks should also be readily available in children's sizes.

#8: Develop a strong communication protocol

Action #1: Advertise on social media and website during activation and circulate protocol all year.

Action #2: Develop list serve with all city-funded, non city-funded community organizations, churches, civic organizations, and press. Send a clear and quick email that protocol has been activated and where to go for help.

Action #3: Make sure 311 is abreast of protocol and ensure people can reserve beds anytime through 311.

Action #4: Send Bulletin to SFPD, all city agencies, Muni drivers, libraries, and neighborhood groups.

#8: Develop a strong communication protocol (contd.)

Action #5: Announce shelter locations on bus shelter electronic boards that announce bus arrivals, and announce in underground Muni and BART stations.

Action #6: Send press release to media and encourage television news stations to run as banners on bottom of screens.

Action #7: Send out text alerts to every person on shelter reservation list who have phone numbers listed.

Action #8: Make sure that all communication actions listed above are translated and conveyed in multiple languages to reflect the diverse language needs of our unhoused neighbors.

Thank You! Questions?

Questions we should be asking our agency officials

1. How often did protocol get met in the 6 storms this year?
 2. How frequently are citations being given on Healthy Streets Operation Center (HSOC) dispatches for homeless related quality-of-life violations?
 3. Is there any evidence that HSOC has reduced the criminalization of homelessness? (i.e. reductions in arrest, citations, police dispatches for quality of life ordinances?)
-

Questions we should be asking our agency officials (Cont)

4. Why are tents being collected as evidence by police? Are cases for illegal lodging being regularly prosecuted by the District Attorney? Even if they were being prosecuted, could you explain why and how would a tent be necessary for successful prosecution as opposed to a photograph or other form of evidence?
 5. Of the total tent clearances reported each week, how many bag-and-tag procedures to store people's property are being carried out?
 6. How can the DPW be held accountable to the widespread claims by those experiencing homelessness that their belongings have been confiscated and destroyed by the agency during camp clearances and/or have been unable to receive their belongings?
-

Invasion of the Tent Snatchers II

2019 WeSearch Report from Poverty Skola/WeSearchers from the Occupied Ohlone/Lisjan Village of Yelamu (San Francisco) Presents: Ongoing Tent and Belonging Theft in San Francisco under Mayor London Breed

WeSearch def: Poor and indigenous peoples-led research. Launched by POOR Magazine poverty skolaz)

SF WeSearch Release Summary

In October of 2018 Poor, Unhoused San Francisco residents of San Francisco collected data on the 110 tents and belongings seized under the new mayoral administration of London Breed that were seized from 62 unhoused Sf residents. Now three months later we are releasing our second WeSearch report on the theft of over 400 tents belonging to 210 houseless residents by the new Mayoral administration of San Francisco

History of this “study”

"Since the inauguration of Mayor London Breed unhoused residents of San Francisco have struggled with a series of tent and belonging seizures and police and DPW harassment. The overall attacks on poor and unhoused people is a continuation of previous mayoral administrations' ongoing attacks on unhoused San Francisco residents. What was evident from this WeSearch study is the attacks now include the specific seizure of peoples tents, which adds yet another inhumane and violent aspect to the attack on our lives for the sole act of not having access to housing in a city which has some of the most violent forms of displacement, removal and evictions of poor and working class families.

WeSearch Process

The 2nd WeSearch “study” was launched November 1st and ended Friday, Jan 18th and revealed a 200% rise in the tent seizures of unhoused peoples, This was a follow-up to the October 24th report which was launched on BlackAugust 31st.

RoofLESS radio **WeSearchers** -a team of Unhoused, formerly unhoused, Working Class, Very low and no-income Black, Brown Poor and 1st Nations youth and adult poverty skolaz, all who have been working and sitting and and sleeping and living in and out of housing in San Francisco conducted interviews and conversations with their communities and families of fellow poverty skolaz and then quantified the data to the following results.

Who are the WeSearchers (demographics):

Data Creators/Collectors/WeSearchers: 210 San Francisco residents sitting, standing, convening, sleeping in San Francisco while houseless

65% were of African Descent or Mixed African Descent

35% were Raza /Indigenous,mixed race,white or other

30% were 65-75

70% were 30-45

70% were men

27% were women

25% trans & non-gender-conforming

70% were houseless after displacement from long-time homes and neighborhoods

80% are living with untreated psychological disabilities

70% are living with physical disabilities

WeSearch Findings of Poverty Skolaz SF residents:

-410 Tents were reported seized from 206 unhoused residents from Sept 7th-January 18th, 2019

-\$56,310 dollars in belongings and medicine were seized and disposed of by DPW and/or SF police.

- Tent, belonging and medicine seizures resulted in severe illness and emergency room visits of unhoused residents of San Francisco and in at least four cases were related to street-based deaths

Demand/Ask based on WeSearch findings:

-Cease and desist in the taking of our enclosures and belongings

-Us Unhoused people of San Francisco are asking for liberated Ohlone/Lisjan land so we can build our own self-determined projects like Homefulness

-Asking Housed residents to send emails, calls, letters and visits to London Breed's office demanding that they cease & desist Tent & belonging seizures from unhoused SF residents

The WeSearch Policy Group (WPG) is a project of POOR Magazine/Prensa POBRE- a poor and indigenous people-led, very grassroots, art-based movement. Please credit POOR Magazine/Prensa POBRE WeSearch Policy Group when re-printing . for more information email poormag@gmail.com or go to www.poormagazine.org

SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL RECOMMENDATIONS

Coalition on Homelessness, March 2019

Severe weather in San Francisco, which will occur more frequently due to climate change, be that poor air quality from fires, wind and rain storms or severe heat, has a disparate impact on homeless people forced to live outdoors. So far this year, San Francisco has faced six consecutive rain and wind storms, with high winds in three and flooding in all six, that left homeless people cold and wet, putting them at severe risk. Last November, fires engulfing California made San Francisco's air quality the worst in the world. The City's response to protecting our unhoused neighbors — over 4,500 which are unsheltered on any given night — from these hazardous conditions has been abysmal.

The City has a protocol in place that applies to wind, rain and cold, and a separate protocol for heat and poor air quality. Many of this year's storms did not meet the protocol; the Mayor made the executive decision to expand a very small number of shelter floor mats. However, the availability of these mats was poorly communicated. Meanwhile, SFPD and Department of Public Works confiscated hundreds of tents, tarps and survival gear, leaving homeless people alone and unsheltered.

This is a deliberate choice from the City to ignore the health and wellbeing of our City's homeless families, youth, and adults, exposing them to hours of dangerous pollutants that will have long-lasting health impacts or alternatively to cold, wind and rain that jeopardizes their very lives.

We implore the City and the Dept. of Homelessness to amend the emergency protocol to:

1. **Lower and simplify the threshold for the protocol so that it is activated at 50 degrees or with a 50% chance of rain, based on the National Weather Service.** Community members and service providers will be able to memorize it easily and it will qualify this year's storms. These lowered thresholds must account for the fact that unhoused children, seniors, and people with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable and defenseless to severe weather conditions.
2. **When the protocol is activated, provide funding for emergency staff to keep all shelters open 24/7.** When that is not possible, establish temporary emergency drop-in centers or ensure access in existing drop-in centers for the adults and families who have no access to daytime shelter and safety.
3. **When the protocol is activated, allow clients to go directly to shelters and receive any available empty bed without a shelter bed reservation or going to a resource center.**
4. **Expand the number of winter shelter mats,** which are currently open between December and April.
5. **Expand shelter access in predetermined locations that are available on the first night of the emergency,** just as would occur during an earthquake or any other natural disaster. These sites can include expanded beds in current shelters, plus recreation centers, drop-in centers, school gymnasiums, and churches. They should include the same proportions of shelter health as occur in traditional shelters, in terms of nursing hours and health workers. Shelters should be available in multiple neighborhoods and have mats for sleeping, as well as raised cots for people with

disabilities. Shelters must accommodate pets, couples, as well as people's property or have a system in place for temporary storage.

6. **In the case of poor air quality alerts, ensure all community based organizations and homeless people on the streets have enough masks to distribute three per day per person.** Order a sufficient quantity ahead of time and have in storage to be distributed on the first day of disaster. Have a distribution plan in place that includes pick-up locations broadly advertised and available on social media year round, and activate those locations as soon as disaster occurs. Masks should also be readily available in children's sizes.
7. **Pass legislation that bans homeless sweeps, property confiscation, and the confiscation of tents and improvised structures.** As many shelters are inadequate placements for homeless people (and, particularly, the most vulnerable homeless people) and it is unlikely we will have space for 4,500 people, it is essential that homeless people can retain their survival gear.
8. As none of this is useful unless word gets out to homeless people, **develop a strong communication plan once protocol is activated:**

Action #1: Advertise on social media and website during activation and circulate protocol all year.

Action #2: Develop list serve with all city-funded, non city-funded community organizations, churches, civic organizations, and press. Send a clear and quick email that protocol has been activated and where to go for help.

Action #3: Make sure 311 is abreast of protocol and ensure people can reserve beds anytime through 311.

Action #4: Send Bulletin to SFPD, all city agencies, Muni drivers, libraries, and neighborhood groups.

Action #5: Announce shelter locations on bus shelter electronic boards that announce bus arrivals, and announce in underground Muni and BART stations.

Action #6: Send press release to media and encourage television news stations to run as banners on bottom of screens.

Action #7: Send out text alerts to every person on shelter reservation list who have phone numbers listed.

Action #8: Make sure that all communication actions listed above are translated and conveyed in multiple languages to reflect the diverse language needs of our unhoused neighbors.



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

Treat our neighbors with dignity.

Stop the sweeps!

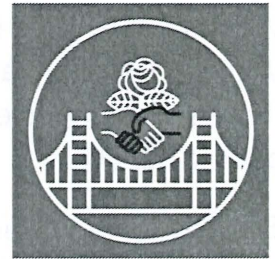
*Sponsored by the Coalition on Homelessness,
GLIDE, Democratic Socialists of America San Francisco,
Indivisible SF, San Francisco Berniecrats,
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

The practice of sweeping homeless people, including families, youth, students, people with disabilities, and seniors, is not only cruel and inhumane, but a blatant human rights violation.

We call on you to stand on the right side of history to stop the practice of displacing homeless people from block to block with nowhere to go, while simultaneously confiscating all of their belongings, including survival gear, life saving medicine, and essential documents, including IDs and birth certificates.



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco



We request that you:

1. make a public statement unconditionally condemning the sweeps
2. introduce legislation calling for a permanent end to all encampment sweeps and property confiscation
3. support the Coalition on Homelessness' severe weather recommendations

Fast facts:

- ❑ **Nearly 400** people have died homeless on San Francisco streets since 2016¹.
- ❑ There were **1,204 people** on the waitlist for shelter as of February 26².
- ❑ More homeless people **die of hypothermia** in California than New York³.
- ❑ **Over 70%** of homeless people in San Francisco were housed in San Francisco before they

¹ <http://www.sfexaminer.com/report-nearly-400-people-died-homeless-sf-streets-since-2016/>

² <https://sf311.org/shelter-reservation-waitlist>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-homeless-hypothermia-20190217-story.html>

became homeless⁴.

What shelter does the city provide in the rain?

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing approved a new protocol in December to roll out extra shelter in periods of inclement weather. This policy⁵ is wholly inadequate; when weather drops below 40°F, the city rolls out between **25-75 extra mats for over 4,500 unsheltered people**.

What is a “sweep?”

When people living in an encampment are forcibly displaced by the SFPD, the Department of Public Works (DPW), private security or others it's called a “sweep.” With shelter and housing waitlists thousands of people long, people have nowhere else to go and nothing other than a tent and other gear to survive.

Sweeps frequently involve illegal and unconstitutional property confiscation. Items reported taken include tents, sleeping bags, tarps (tarps are often cut or destroyed with knives by police), suitcases / bags / purses, toiletries, family heirlooms, medication, clothing, blankets, wallets, identification cards, and money. Frontline harm reduction workers have seen an increase in sweeps-related requests for Naloxone⁶.

Personal testimony

We haven't had to work hard to collect stories from homeless neighbors about property confiscation; everyone we've spoken to has a story. These are a few of the horrific anecdotes we have collected:

- ❑ Democratic Socialists of America SF raised over \$6500 from the community to distribute tents to our homeless neighbors in lieu of shelter from the city. The SF Examiner⁷ and SF Weekly⁸ reported that tents were confiscated by DPW within a day of distribution.
- ❑ A woman who had her sweater confiscated by DPW slept for three nights in a row in a t-shirt with her arms crossed over her chest for warmth. She was shivering and sick.
- ❑ One woman told us that unhoused women are regularly sexually assaulted on the streets, and that tents provide a level of privacy and safety.
- ❑ An older man whose mother had passed away the week prior kept heirlooms to remember her by in a suitcase along with his other essentials. DPW confiscated the entire suitcase and he never got it back. When asked what he had lost he said, "Everything. My identity."
- ❑ A woman named Claire was cut by a knife when SFPD slashed open her tent during a sweep.

⁴ <http://www.socketsite.com/archives/2016/02/san-franciscos-homeless-crisis-is-homegrown.html>

⁵ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yT5DpNFdwF7263L2W5HITWApi9RAi_7x/view

⁶ <http://www.sfweekly.com/news/fentanyl-rising-in-s-f-s-street-drug-supply/>

⁷ <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sf-rolled-25-extra-mats-4200-unsheltered-homeless-people-storm/>

⁸ <http://www.sfweekly.com/news/sfpd-confiscated-tents-hours-before-major-weekend-storm/>

She was subsequently harassed and embarrassed by police⁹.

"It's like a nightmare where you wake up and you know, you're falling, you're scared awake.

You can't really sleep. You don't have any coverage, anything protecting you. Anyone can walk up on you, and they do. It's scary. You can't sleep, your eyes are opening and closing.

When the wind comes in, and the rain comes in, it soaks through your whole being. That cold, you can't shake it, and there's no way of getting dry again, for hours. You can't go into Starbucks, you're all wet. You want to get warm but you can't. It's like reaching for a doorknob but you can't reach it, missing it, missing it, missing it.

When you have a tent, that's your shelter, that's your protection. It's like a castle. It stops people from looking in, taking your things, from being creepy... you feel like you can get a good night sleep.

When you don't have that simple layer of tent, it's like you're on stage for the world — to steal from you. Hurt you. It's very scary and cold."

— Couper Orona¹⁰

"The cops shake the tent and shout 'SFPD!' If you don't answer right away they unzip the door and try to wake you up. Then, he asked if we want to give it up freely or be arrested or go to jail. We jumped up really quick and started breaking it down really quick, hoping if we packed it up he wouldn't take it. But he stopped it in the middle of rolling it up and told us not to bother — it was going in the back of the truck with the rest.

"Officer Tim Minkel, he's the one we deal with all the time. When we were on Elm, we asked if he enjoyed doing this to people. And he said 'yeah I do because it's an eyesore seeing your stuff on the street.' All the DPW guys were laughing.

"Living on the streets is not fun for us, by any means. It's hard seeing them able to joke about us losing our stuff. It's a really big impact, it makes a big big difference for us. You're told for so long SFPD is here to help, and then they do stuff like that."

— Caitlin¹¹

"I have had my belongings confiscated 10 different times. The city has taken my original irreplaceable linocuts — over 50 plates, all of my original artwork."

— Ronnie Goodman, whose artwork hangs in City Hall¹²

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/kelley.cutler/posts/10213552005849368>

¹⁰ <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sf-rolled-25-extra-mats-4200-unsheltered-homeless-people-storm/>

¹¹ <http://www.sfweekly.com/news/sfpd-confiscated-tents-hours-before-major-weekend-storm/>

¹² <http://www.sfweekly.com/news/homeless-artist-ronnie-goodman-arrested-after-dpw-sweep/>

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE OF OUR NEIGBORS WHO HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO



HOMELESSNESS DUE TO THE LACK OF CONCERN BY OUR UNFAIR CITY. SHAME ON YOU!

2018

RONALD ALBENESIUS	55	DERRIKE COLE	52	MONICA FRANIS	55
CHRISTINE ALLEN	65	MICHAEL COLES	30	ROBERT FRANCO	36
ELIAS ARIAS PEREZ	32	RUDY COLSTON	69	ROBERT FRANKLIN SR	53
ROBERTO ANSELMO AVILA	56	GUSTAVO CONTRERAS	55	JOHN GANS	65
NICHOLAS BALLARD	40	LAVERNE CRINER	34	BRENT GARRARD	45
MAX BEAUDREAU	29	HAROLD CRISWELL JR	43	WILBURN GILLILAN	58
HAROLD BLEVINS	60	CLAUDIA CULIVER	72	ALICIA GONZALES	66
BENJAMIN BLOOM	29	ROBERT CURRIER	60	WENDELL HACKLER	78
LIA BONIFACIO	32	JULIE DEMAREE	42	DANTE HAYES	41
JOACHIM BONNER	60	DAVID DIAMOND	50	FRANCOIS HEAFIELD	22
VICTORA BOWMAN	56	SYLVESTER DIAS	65	KURT HEILMANN	56

DERRICK BROWN	48	FRANCISCO DIAS	35	RODNEY HENFRICKS	61
WILLIAM BROWN	69	ANTHONY DOE	46	JORGE HERNANDEZ	46
PHILLIP BROWN	44	DANIEL DOWDLE	44	MOISES HIDALGO	32
MICHAEL BUCK	58	JULIAN DUARTE	68	LINDY HILL	61
KYLE BUDNER	28	ROBERT DUNCAN	64	CLEVELAND HOLLADAY IV	27
PATRICK BURKE	69	ALICK DZIABCZENKO	63	ROBERTO HOLLAND	31
SHARON BUTLER	61	ANDREW EMMETT	32	MILKON ISLEYEN (HYA)	28
MARK CAMACHO	60	CHRIST EUNICE	59	JORDAN JANIKOWSKI	24
MICHAEL PAN CAMBELL	33 (HYA)	MODESTO FEGURDO	62	JAY JAWORSKI	50
KASON CARTER	42	RENATO FERNANDEZ	59	JONATHAN JONES	48
FRANCISCO CASTILLO	60	JOHN FETT	68	FRANCINE (BUBBLES) JONES	36
ERIK CHERNEY	38	DONOVAN FLORES	43	CHARLOTTE JORDAN	66
VALERIE CHOUNET	60	PAREE FOSTER	48	ANDREW KING	58
DAVID OSCAR CLARK	31 (HYA)	KEVIN FOSTER	63	WILLIAM KIRKLAND	72

PG 2

RICHARD KNOWLES	50	SCOTT LITTLES	55	NATHAN LIU	56
TRAVIS LOPEZ	43	HAL LOUIS	57	THOMAS LUNDQUIST	65
LENA MARSHALL	50	LUIS MEDINA ALFARO	52	EMORY MEYERCORD	44
ARTIS MONOE	65	FRANK MONBACH	60	JOSE MONTENEGRO AVELINO	49
GAYLORD MOODY	64	PAUL MOORE	59	MICHAEL NOLAN	36
JOANGELINE (JOY) O'CONOR	36	NATHANIEL ORTEGA	51	ANGELOS PANGALOS	36
JOSEPH PERKINS	58	TOM PERRY	43	CHAMLAT PHUMLA	75
EDWARD POWERS JR	54	SAID RAHMAOUI	54	RONALD REDMAN	57
ELIJAH REED	34	DWAYNE REED	56	KAMEL REGGAD	40
ROBERT REID	61	PHILLIP RESCHLY	57	DONALD RIVARD	57

EDISON RIVERA	58	MATTHEW ROUSSEL	46	ARTHUR SALVANI (SILVANI)-62
JUAN SANCHEZ	48	DENISE SHIPMAN	44	OKSANA SIROTKINA LOVALERCHIK-45
DAVID SMITH (HYA)	34	DERICK STEWART	58	BRIAN STONE 46
RANDALL (PAPA) DAWG)-STONE-(HYA)-56		CREED SULLENGER	45	ROBERT TEIXEIRA 44
JOE THODORE	69	DARRYL TOMLINSON	52	OTIS TOWNSEND 68
SUSAN TRAPPANI	54	QUANG TRUONG	49	ROBERT TYSON 67
MICHAEL VIEGAS	47	ANDREW WALKER	37	THOMAS WARD 37
SHARON (KIX) WEHRING (HYA)-36		MICHAEL WELLS	48	DEBORAH WEST 54
JAMES WILLIAMS 11	41	ADAM (NARWHAL) WILSON -HYA-36		RUDY WISEMAN 81
DEVANTE WORLEY	23	CHRISTOPHER WYATT	43	KNUTE YOUNGBEAR 63
DONNA GILFERT	45ISH	EDWARD TYLER		JUAN DAVIS 60
ALEX HERRERA	34	RAYMOND (TOOD) HUDSON (HYA)-23		
BLAYOCK (DIGETAL NATE) NATHAN-(HYA)	26	ELLA (VALENTINE) CONNOR (HYA)-24		
EZEKIAL (ZEKE) SAED BLUE (HYA)-39		EVE GREGORY JUDD (HYA)	35	
GARY (TURBO) LONGORIA (HYA)-41		JESSE CHAMPION (HYA)	45	JOSH PAWLIK (HYA) 31
DAN NEAL (HYA)		(COSMIC CHARLIE)		
SUNY (MAMA CAT) STONE (HYA)-62		VICKY TRAMMEL		RICHARD TRAMMEL
DONNA (SHORTY) GILFERT		JOE PALIN	58	LEROY BROWN 86
MARCUS ROBERTSON	56	JOE BOXER	75	ROCKEY 86
LINUS		JAVIER SOLIS	56	JUSTIN JAMES
HECTOR MANUEL CARTOR	62	TODD (SMILEY) ORTAGA		(LA PERLITA)
AARON GNECK		ERIC KELLY		SHIRLEY WRIGHT
CYRIL JAMES		MICHAEL LAWLER		JACK INGLE
ALAN MUNGAZA		LORAN PAUL		JAMES AYERS

DONALD MERRILL		PAMELA HALL		RAMAN REYES	
ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ		ERNEST LEYVA		BENNIE CHESTNUT	
HARRISON PAHE		CYNTHIA HALL		JONNIE ANDREWS	
MARK ADAMS		ANTHONY BROWN		HECTOR FLORES	
JIM MONTGOMERY		STEPHEN MANN		TROY EDWARDS	
GARY FONG		DAVID LABLANC		JORGE MARTINEZ	
BENNIE NEELY		SCOTT TURNER		EARL WILSON	
KATHERINE SZYMKOWICZ		BORIS BENADO		MELVIN MORRIS	
CHRISTOPHER VIOLA		SHERRY HAYES		ELWIN BENJAMIN	
FRANK GUTIERREZ		JOHN BALLARD		KENNETH WILLIAMS	
ARIANA (ARI) BOLMER		TATSUYUKI I ITO		JERRY RENGRO	
JOHN HOLMES		ERIK FJELSTROM		EDITH WITT	
RIKU PIRTTIPERA		IMMANI HAMANDEH		RICHARD BROWN	
RICHARD BROWN		GEORGE MAXWMIN		LINA VAYSBEERG	
RAISA VILSHINA		STEPHEN HENSON		CAIN RUSSELL	
KATHERINE WEST		BRENDA PARKS		GRACE DEVICO	
BERNARD HOLBERT		PAUL BASKET		VIADIMIR YESHCHIN	
KEITH GROSS		MICHAEL HICKMAN		BYRON (TIMBER) CHRISTIAN-35	
ROBIN SIMPSON	38	WILLIAM WRIGHT	39	ROMEO EZIKE	58
RICHARD OPPIDO	66	PHILLIP CUNEO	58	SEAN KENNEDY	37
JESSICA DUKE	31	GENNARO CARTER	48	PHILLIP HILL	68
MARK VOELKEL	65	RON REDDMAN	55		
MICHAEL "MEPHIS" T	71	WILLY	50	HOOK	60

AND MANY MORE OF WHOM I COULDN'T WRITE OF FROM ED LEE TIL NOW AS HE AND OTHERS OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ALLOWING THE HOMELESS TO EXPAND TILL NOW OUT OF CONTROL. HOUSING IS BEING BUILT TO BENEFIT THE RICH, DENYING THE POOR A PLACE TO LIVE.

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY REMOVING ENCAMPMENTS CONTAINING TENTS, TAKING THE TENTS FROM THE OWNERS TO HOLD AS EVIDENCE FOR THEIR CASES. AFTER THE HOMELESS PEOPLE COLLECT THEIR BELONGINGS, THE AREA IS THEN CLEANED. ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY LEFT BEHIND IS THROWN AWAY.

THE SHELTERS ARE IN NEED OF BETTER PROCEDURES AS THE HOMELESS ARE LEFT CLINGING TO THE STREETS. FORCING HOMELESS PEOPLE OUT ON THE STREET FROM 7 AM TO LATE AFTERNOON IS INHUMAN AS THEY ARE SENT OUT TO BE IN THE COLD AND WET WEATHER.

DURING LAST YEAR'S FIRES, OUR CITY'S SKIES WERE VERY SMOKY AND IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TO BREATHE THE AIR WITHOUT PROPER PROTECTION. THE CITY DID NOT EFFECTIVELY DAILY PROVIDE ENOUGH MASKS FOR THE HOMELESS. MANY WERE FORCED TO BREATHE THE TOXIC AIR 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

THIS LACK OF CARE AND RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IS INHUMAN. YOU, THE CITY OFFICIALS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, THE MAYOR, AND OTHERS RESPONSE TO THE HOMELESS CRISIS NEEDS TO CHANGE IMMEDIATELY.

25% trans & non-gender-conforming

70% were houseless after displacement from long-time homes and neighborhoods

80% are living with untreated psychological disabilities

70% are living with physical disabilities

WeSearch Findings of Poverty Skolaz SF residents:

- 410 Tents were reported seized from 206 unhoused residents from Sept 7th-January 18th, 2019
- \$56,310 dollars in belongings and medicine were seized and disposed of by DPW and/or SF police.
- Tent, belonging and medicine seizures resulted in severe illness and emergency room visits of unhoused residents of San Francisco and in at least four cases were related to street-based deaths

Demand/Ask based on WeSearch findings:

- Cease and desist in the taking of our enclosures and belongings
- Us Unhoused people of San Francisco are asking for liberated Ohlone/Lisjan land so we can build our own self-determined projects like Homefulness
- Asking Housed residents to send emails, calls, letters and visits to London Breed's office demanding that they cease & desist Tent & belonging seizures from unhoused SF residents

The WeSearch Policy Group (WPG) is a project of POOR Magazine/Prensa POBRE- a poor and indigenous people-led, very grassroots, art-based movement. Please credit POOR Magazine/Prensa POBRE WeSearch Policy Group when re-printing . for more information email poormag@gmail.com or go to www.poormagazine.org

Invasion of the Tent Snatchers II

2019 WeSearch Report from Poverty Skola/WeSearchers from the Occupied Ohlone/Lisjan Village of Yelamu (San Francisco) Presents: Ongoing Tent and Belonging Theft in San Francisco under Mayor London Breed

WeSearch def: Poor and indigenous peoples-led research. Launched by POOR Magazine poverty skolaz)

SF WeSearch Release Summary

In October of 2018 Poor, Unhoused San Francisco residents of San Francisco collected data on the 110 tents and belongings seized under the new mayoral administration of London Breed that were seized from 62 unhoused Sf residents. Now three months later we are releasing our second WeSearch report on the theft of over 400 tents belonging to 210 houseless residents by the new Mayoral administration of San Francisco

History of this “study”

"Since the inauguration of Mayor London Breed unhoused residents of San Francisco have struggled with a series of tent and belonging seizures and police and DPW harassment. The overall attacks on poor and unhoused people is a continuation of previous mayoral administrations' ongoing attacks on unhoused San Francisco residents. What was evident from this WeSearch study is the attacks now include the specific seizure of peoples tents, which adds yet another inhumane and violent aspect to the attack on our lives for the sole act of not having access to housing in a city which has some of the most violent forms of displacement, removal and evictions of poor and working class families.

WeSearch Process

The 2nd WeSearch “study” was launched November 1st and ended Friday , Jan 18th and revealed a 200% rise in the tent seizures of unhoused peoples, This was a follow-up to the October 24th report which was launched on BlackAugust 31st.

RoofLESS radio **WeSearchers** -a team of Unhoused, formerly unhoused, Working Class, Very low and no-income Black, Brown Poor and 1st Nations youth and adult poverty skolaz, all who have been working and sitting and and sleeping and living in and out of housing in San Francisco conducted interviews and conversations with their communities and families of fellow poverty skolaz and then quantified the data to the following results.

Who are the WeSearchers (demographics):

Data Creators/Collectors/WeSearchers: 210 San Francisco residents sitting, standing , convening, sleeping in San Francisco while houseless

65% were of African Descent or Mixed African Descent

35% were Raza /Indigenous,mixed race,white or other

30% were 65-75

70% were 30-45

70% were men

27% were women