

2016 HEAT RESPONSE PLAN

Tyler / Smith County

PURPOSE

This plan is designed to serve as a guide and to provide useful information to the public. Users of this plan are encouraged to direct all questions to the appropriate designated agencies.

..... AS ALWAYS, IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911

RESPONSIBILITY/LEAD AGENCY

The City of Tyler Fire Department is the lead agency for the Heat Response Plan. Other agencies or human service entities needing information or administrative assistance should call the City of Tyler Fire Department at (903) 535-0005 as the primary contact and/or the Northeast Texas Public Health District at (903) 535-0037 as the secondary contact. For public affairs information call the Health District at (903) 535-0036. Call 211 as an additional resource.

SCIENCE

Exposure to excessive heat can cause illness, injury and death. Approximately 400 people die each year from exposure to heat due to weather conditions, and many more people die from health conditions that are exacerbated by exposure to excess heat. Heat waves bring unusually high temperatures that may last for days or weeks. Although the human body has effective systems to cool itself, under some conditions, these mechanisms are not enough. In such cases, a person's body temperature may rise rapidly. Very high body temperatures can cause severe damage to the brain, other vital organs and even death. Fans alone may not be as effective above 90 degrees with high humidity. If overheated, people should be advised to seek air conditioning. Air conditioning is the leading protective factor against heat-related illness and death.

To better understand the scope of heat exposure, mortality data for 1999-2009 was used to review heat-related deaths in the United States overall. During this period, 7,233 heat-related deaths occurred, an average of 658 per year. In 5,201(72%) of these deaths, the underlying cause was exposure to excessive heat, and heat was a contributing factor in the remaining 2,032 (28%) deaths. Heat-related deaths were reported most frequently among males (4,955; 69%) and among adults aged 65 years (2,621; 36%). Almost all heat-related deaths occurred during May- September (6,821; 94%), with the highest numbers reported during July (2,825; 39%) and August (1,925; 27%).

Most heat-related deaths occur during the summer months. By knowing who is at risk and what prevention measures to take, heat-related illness can be prevented. Those at highest risk from heat (groups without access to air conditioning for at least a few hours of the day) include:

- the elderly
- socially isolated individuals (homebound, homeless)
- the physically disabled
- persons with chronic medical conditions
- infants
- persons taking certain medications (neuroleptics, anticholinergics).

Heat Advisory: *A period of hot temperatures is expected and will create a situation in which heat illnesses are possible; they are announced by local weather reports.*

PRECAUTIONS *Hydration and access to air conditioning are the most critical interventions to decrease the human impact of a heat wave.*

- Alternate periods of work with periods of rest. The U.S. Military has produced guidelines that can be applied to civilians.
http://www.stripes.com/polopoly_fs/1.184840!/menu/standard/file/rest.pdf
- Drink plenty of fluids. Water is best; sports drinks in moderation; avoid alcohol, as this will worsen conditions. Bottled water is available from Salvation Army or PATH.
- Stay in an air conditioned room
- Stay out of the sun as much as possible
- Check up on relatives and neighbors
- Do not leave unattended children and pets in vehicles. Heat can build up rapidly. See the chart below.

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time

Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Courtesy Jan Null, CCM; Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

MEDICAL EVALUATION

Individuals at risk for heat injuries can call 911 for a medical evaluation / heat check. Paramedics will respond to identify any heat related problem and to provide for transport to the appropriate medical facility in the event of an emergency.

SHELTERS

Overnight Locations:

- Salvation Army - 24 hour shelter for homeless or near homeless with a capacity of 200. (903) 592-4361. In case of declared emergency, additional space for 250 is available in the Disaster Shelter
- American Red Cross - Open on demand. Depends on declared emergency. (903) 581-7981 or 1-866-505-4801

Daytime Locations:

- Salvation Army 633 N. Broadway, Open 24 hours, 7 days a week, (903) 592-4361
- Local Fire Stations
- Broadway Square Mall and other retail outlets On City bus route
- Movie Theaters
- Churches Check with individual churches regarding activities or capability to accommodate the public

City of Tyler Facilities: Tyler Fire Department Various locations. Call 903-535-0005 or 911

Glass Recreation Center 501 W. 32nd St., Monday through Friday 7am-10pm, Saturday 9am-3pm, closed Sunday. Open to the public during posted hours with estimated capacity of 500 individuals. Call to inquire about actual remaining available capacity. Activities can be scheduled by calling (903) 595-7271

Tyler Public Library 201 S. College. Monday through Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm. Open to the public during posted hours with an Estimated capacity of 120 individuals. Activities can be scheduled through the library for Taylor Auditorium (capacity 100) by calling (903) 593-7323

Senior Citizen Activity Center: 1915 Garden Valley Road, (903) 597-0781 for additional information about services, 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, estimated capacity 125

Rose Garden 420 Rose Park Drive, (903) 531-1349, 8am-5pm. Monday through Friday with an estimated capacity 200

Swimming Pools

- Fun Forest Park. June 4-August 16. Closed Sunday and Monday. Tuesday through Thursday 1pm-6pm, Friday and Saturday 1pm-7pm.

- Arp:** Arp Fire Department 12125 County Road 246S
- Bullard:** Bullard Fire Department 215 S Houston St
- Chapel Hill:** Chapel Hill Fire Department 13801 County Road 220
- Dixie:** Dixie Fire Department 584 County Road 1143
- Flint/Gresham:** Flint-Gresham Fire Department 18823 FM 2493
- Jackson Heights:** Jackson Heights Fire Department 2874 County Road 24

- Lindale:** Lindale Fire Department 208 E Hubbard St
Lindale Community Library, 200 E. Hubbard (903) 882-1900. Capacity 200-300
Air conditioned and open to the public during posted hours
Tuesday through Thursday 10am-6pm,
Friday through Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday & Monday
- Noonday:** Noonday Fire Department 16619 Highway 155S
- Overton:** Overton Fire Department 201 E Main St
Overton McMillan Memorial Library, 302 E. South St,
(903) 834-6318, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-5pm,
Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 8am-5pm, closed Saturday & Sunday
- Red Springs:** Red Springs Fire Department 2381 FM 16E
- Troup:** Troup Fire Department 301 W Duval St
- Whitehouse:** Whitehouse Fire Department 303 E Main St
Whitehouse Community Library - 107 Bascom Road (903) 839 2949
Whitehouse Community YMCA - 301 Terry St. (903) 839 9622
- Winona:** Winona Fire Department 1111 Dallas St

TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation for at-risk individuals enroute to air conditioned shelters or daytime locations might be available through the following agencies. Please contact the individual agency for availability.

- Family, Friends, Neighbors
- Tyler Transit
- Hospital courtesy vans
- Cab companies

IDENTIFICATION OF ISOLATED/ELDERLY AT RISK INDIVIDUALS

The following should make effort to identify those who are at risk and to get them connected to transportation and air conditioning. Remember, many do not have telephone or internet access.

- Family, Friends, Neighbors
- Fire Departments
- Police and Sherriff's Departments (especially beat officers)
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Citizen Center
- Emergency Care Centers
- Hospital Emergency Rooms
- Hospital Social Workers
- Home Health Nursing
- Public Health Case Managers/Outreach Workers
- Animal Control Officers
- Church Volunteers
- Citizen Volunteers
- East Texas Council For Independent Living - particularly for disabled residents

WELFARE CONCERN:

Should a concern exist, please contact one of the following:

- Tyler Police Department (903) 531-1000 to request a welfare visit by a Police Officer.
- Smith County Emergency Dispatch / Fire Department and Sheriff's Office (903) 566-6600
- Lindale Emergency Dispatch / Fire and Police (903) 882-3313
- For emergencies, call 911.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK/HOTLINE:

Provide information to the public about what they should do, some general information on avoiding heat related illness, and where to go for air conditioned relief.

- 2-1-1 Texas at www.211texas.org
- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361
- Northeast Texas Public Health District (903) 535-0020 www.healthyeasttx.org
- American Red Cross (903) 581-7981 www.redcross.org/tx/easttexas
Apps available through your smartphone app store.
- KTBB AM600/KDOK 92.1 FM (903) 593-2519
- KETK NBC56 (903) 581-5656
- KLTV Channel 7 (903) 510-7777
- KYTX CBS19 (903) 581-2211
- Tyler Morning Telegraph (903) 596-6265
- Other Media (see telephone book)
- City of Tyler Access Channel (903) 533-7444 Web Site @ www.cityoftyler.org
- Northeast Texas Public Health district Web Site @ www.healthyeasttx.org
- Health Care Facilities
 - Trinity Mother Frances (903) 593-8441
 - ETMC (903) 597-0351
 - UT Health Center at Tyler, Emergency Room (903) 877-7806

UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

Individuals with problems concerning payment should contact their electric company to develop a payment plan if needed. Agencies that may assist with temporary utility bill assistance include:

- Greater East Texas Community Action Program (GETCAP) (903) 592-3828 or (800) 621-5746. Also offers assistance with Water and Gas.
- Salvation Army
- PATH
- Churches

WATER

Bottled water **might be** available from:

- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361 www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler
- PATH (903) 597-4044 www.pathhelps.org

DONATIONS:

To donate water, cooling packs, fans, air conditioners, and transportation services, contact:

- Tyler Fire Department (903) 535-0005
- People Attempting To Help (PATH) (903) 597-4044
- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361
- Meals on Wheels (903) 593-7385
- KLTV Channel 7 (903) 510-7777
- KETK NBC56 (903) 581-5656
- KYTX CBS19 (903) 581-2211
- Tyler Fire Department (903) 535-0005
- Smith County Volunteer Fire Departments (903) 590-2655


REPORTING SYSTEMS:

Emergency Rooms and EMS Providers keep records of the number of heat related injuries and illnesses in order to allow monitoring of the community and to permit future development of Heat Response Plans. This is coordinated by Texas Department of Health EMS staff.

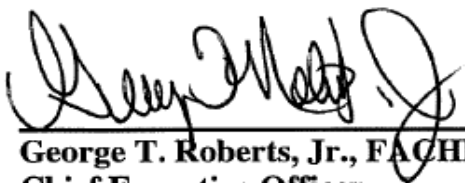
USERS OF THIS PLAN:

Users of this plan are encouraged to direct questions to the above identified agencies. Should issues not be addressed in the plan, or if questions remain unanswered, users should contact the lead agency.


REVIEWED:



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