HOW MY COMMUNITY IS PREPARING FOR

HEAT WAVES

WHAT ARE THEY?

By definition, heat waves are three consecutive days of temperatures above 90 degrees. But conditions of extreme heat and humidity can last several days.

WHEN DO THEY OCCUR?

In our area, heat waves generally occur between June and September, but are most likely in July and August. Heat waves affect the Kansas City area almost every summer. Our region typically experiences about 37 days per year above 90 degrees.

WHERE DO THEY OCCUR?

Heat waves affect the entire region, but they have a more significant impact on urban areas because the large concentration of buildings and pavement absorb more heat during the day and radiate more heat into the immediate surroundings at night than in rural areas with more vegetation.

CORRESPONDING HAZARDS

The stagnant air of a heat wave traps ozone and other pollutants in urban areas, adding to poor air quality.

DAMAGE TYPE & SEVERITY

The severity of heat-related disorders tends to increase with age. Heat waves can cause fatigue, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, sunstroke or heat stroke.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- People vulnerable to heat stress due to physical condition
- People with limited independence due to physical limitations or mental disorders
- People working in heat under stress, such as firefighters and police.
- People in urban environments
- People with low incomes
- People who work outdoors
- Athletes
- People who are difficult to reach through normal communications, such as the homeless or those who do not speak English

COMMUNITIES	ACTION
PC Rv WL Pk	1. Partner with MARC, local public health agencies, emergency management agencies, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other stakeholders to inventory public, private and nonprofit facilities that are air conditioned and can be used as "heat emergency" shelters.
WL HL	2. Retrofit existing facilities with air conditioning systems and designate them as shelters for use during heat waves.
Rv HL Pk	3. Identify at-risk, low-income and elderly residents and develop a database and map of their places of residence.
PC Rv	4. Partner with community service organizations and area businesses to provide air conditioners or fans to at-risk groups, low-income residents and the elderly.
PC WL	5. Work with utility providers to develop and implement programs to reduce, eliminate or defer air-conditioning costs for elderly, low-income and at-risk residents.
PC Rv WL HL Pk	6. Develop local heat-emergency plans or heat-wave annexes to local emergency operations plans.

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COMMUNITIES	ACTION
PC Rv HL	7. Consider developing a regional heat-emergency plan for Greater Kansas City.
PC Rv HL WL Pk	8. Partner with public safety agencies, local public health agencies and community groups to develop a program to regularly check on elderly, low-income and at-risk residents during heat waves.
PC Rv HL WL	9. Work with community groups to sponsor a program to encourage people to think of those who require special assistance.
	10. Temporarily reduce or eliminate fees for public swimming pools during extended periods of extreme heat and humidity.
PC Rv HL WL	11. Collect and disseminate public education materials that address heat-wave safety, preparedness and mitigation activities.
PC Rv HL WL	12. Provide vulnerable populations with public education materials that address heat-wave safety and preparedness.
PC Rv	13. Work with the media to publish special newspaper sections or conduct periodic broadcasts with emergency information on extreme heat.
	14. Develop and conduct a public education and awareness campaign on properly weather-stripping homes.