

## OWS Partner Agency Actions for Hot Weather Response

The National Weather Service will issue an Excessive Heat Advisory or Warning. Health emergencies will be declared only by the appropriate local/state government entity.

### Stages of Excessive Heat

#### Stage 1: Excessive Heat Advisory:

Issued when the Heat Index (HI) is expected to reach 105 degrees F. or the HI will range from 100 to 104 for 4 or more consecutive days

The monitoring program will be discontinued when the City Heat Index falls below 105 for 24 continuous hours and the National Weather Service predicts that there is low probability that severe conditions will return in the foreseeable future.

#### Stage 2: Excessive Heat Warning:

Issued when the HI is expected to reach 110 degrees F. A warning will also be issued if the HI equals or exceeds 105 for four or more consecutive days.

The warning will be issued any time the forecaster has confidence the parameters will be met. An advisory does not have to be issued first.

**Stage 3: Excessive Heat Health EMERGENCY** The Department of Health will recommend to the Mayor and County Executive that an Excessive Heat Health EMERGENCY be declared when:

- 1) A sustained heat wave with heat indexes of 105 or higher for greater than 48 hrs is predicted by the National Weather Service, and
- 2) Significant increased levels of heat related illness and death are being reported, and
- 3) Government and OWS agencies report being overwhelmed with requests and are asking for additional help.

The Department of Health will recommend to the Mayor/County Executive that the EMERGENCY be canceled when the City HI falls below 105 for 48 hours and the National Weather Service predicts that there is a low probability that severe conditions will return in the foreseeable future.

### OWS Agency Responsibilities

1. Each agency will take the responsibility to monitor the National Weather Service's (NWS) forecast to learn of Excessive heat Advisories/Warnings. This will eliminate the need for a "call tree" process. The NWS representative to OWS will keep OWS members aware of possible advisories/warnings through e-mails or telephone calls whenever possible.
2. Each OWS agency has documented certain actions that will take place upon the Excessive Heat Advisory/Warning announcements. See the back of this page for a list of those actions.

### OWS Air Conditioner Program

1. AmerenUE provides funding for the purchase of Air Conditioners for the "OWS AC Program for the Medically Needy". (Air conditioners are loaned, installed & maintained by OWS Partners – Home Services or through a local college collaborating with OWS Partner Agencies.)
2. Home Services will maintain these AC units and facilitate installation in St. Louis City.
3. In St. Louis City: Human Development Corporation (314-535-7607) and St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (314-612-5918) will process AC applications and forward approvals to Home Services.
4. In St. Charles County: Northeast Community Action Agency (NECAC) (636-272-3477) will process AC applications & contact partner (Local College) for installation.
5. In Jefferson County: Jefferson/Franklin Community Action Corporation (636-789-2686) will process AC applications & contact partner (Local College) for installation.
6. In St. Louis County, both Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (314-863-0015) & Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (636-207-0847) will provide assistance with AC units, if available.

### Preparing for the Heat

- **OWS Membership** (Before June 1 each year)
  - ⇒ Contact all Agencies & Organizations that acted as "Cooling Sites" in previous years to confirm participation for current season.
  - ⇒ Update "Cooling Site" List for posting on Web Sites when appropriate.
  - ⇒ All OWS Partners begin asking elderly and disabled questions concerning need for cooling.
  - ⇒ Work with NSO's and other "outreach" groups to "get the word out" about safety in excessive heat.

## Hot Weather Advisories/Warnings/Emergencies

- **Health Departments:**
  - ⇒ St. Louis City – Rhonda Bartow (314-612-5271)
  - ⇒ St. Louis County – Colleen Beckwith (314-615-6869)
  - ⇒ St. Charles County – Cameron Satterfield (636-949-7408)
  - ⇒ Jefferson County – Dennis Diehl (636-789-3372 x104)
  - Begin surveillance of illness and death due to severe hot weather
  - Continue surveillance for 24/48 hrs. after cancellation of Advisory/Warning
- **Northeast Community Action Corporation (NECAC)** (St. Charles, Lincoln & Warren Counties)
  - ⇒ Heather Hagen (636-723-3470)
  - Contact all non-MEAAA or TSA Cooling Sites & Notify United Way of any sites which will NOT be open
- **Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (MEAAA)** (St. Louis County, St. Charles, Franklin & Jefferson County)
  - ⇒ Lisa Beatty (636-207-0847)
  - Contact all MEAAA Cooling Sites & Notify United Way of any sites which will NOT be open
  - Provide “health/wellness” checks on those receiving home delivered meals
  - Alert Senior Transportation Services
- **St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA)** (St. Louis City)
  - ⇒ Kelli McCurdy (314-657-1676)
  - Contact all SLAAA Cooling Sites & Notify United Way of any sites which will NOT be open
  - Provide “health/wellness” checks on those receiving home delivered meals
  - Alert City Senior Transportation Services
  - Provide water and ice to SLAAA Cooling Sites, if needed
- **County Older Residents Program (CORP)**
  - ⇒ Ellen Sherman (314-615-4559) (Reassurance line: 314-615-4516)
  - Provide seniors with telephone reassurance program in St. Louis County
- **The Salvation Army (TSA)** (St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles & Jefferson County and Illinois St. Clair & Madison County)
  - ⇒ Kimberly Beck (314-646-3154)
  - Contact Salvation Army Cooling Sites & Notify United Way of any sites which will NOT be open
  - Provide water and ice to Salvation Army Cooling Sites, if needed
  - Be available to provide “Canteen” services for water to other Cooling Sites, if needed
- **United Way of Greater St. Louis (UW)**
  - ⇒ Debbie Fagin (314-242-1801)
  - Alert UW 2-1-1 Information & Referral Specialists
  - Contact all other Cooling Sites (NOT with MEAAA; SLAAA or Salvation Army)
  - Follow-up with MEAAA; SLAAA and TSA for sites NOT open
  - Update “Cooling Site” information & post to UW Web Page & Update Resource Database
  - Request additional allocation for the purchase & installation of air conditioners, if needed
- **The American Red Cross (ARC)**
  - ⇒ Becky White (314-516-2700 – 24 hr. line)
  - Deliver fluids (cold water and cups) to OWS Cooling Sites, if requested
- **Media Response (Other partners may be referred to, as appropriate)**
  - ⇒ Health Department(s) – issue press releases
  - ⇒ Debbie Fagin – United Way of Greater St. Louis – OWS Chairperson (314-242-1801)
  - ⇒ AmerenUE, Laclede Gas, National Weather Service, United Way may issue press releases and have information available to the public about hot weather and Operation Weather Survival on their websites