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Public Information Statement 17-18
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather
 Services Branch

SUBJECT: Change of Heat Advisory thresholds for New England
 Effective immediately

Effective immediately, five NWS offices (Caribou, ME; Gray, ME; Burlington, VT; Taunton, MA and Upton, NY), in collaboration with the Northeast Regional Heat Collaborative, have lowered Heat Advisory criteria for all of New England for the coming summer season.

Studies and research conducted by the collaborative show that emergency department visits and deaths from heat increase significantly on days when the heat index reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Thus, the old threshold of 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more consecutive hours has been lowered to 95-99 degrees Fahrenheit occurring for two or more consecutive days, or any duration of heat index 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Excessive Heat Warning criteria (heat index 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for two or more hours) remains unchanged.

It is expected that this change will alert people sooner to impending heat threats and if acted upon, reduce the number of emergency department visits.

No communication changes are required to continue to receive heat advisory/warning products. Only the triggering threshold for heat advisories has been changed.

If you have questions, please contact:

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