

# Heat Emergency Response Plan for Campbell County

## Purpose

The Campbell County Heat Emergency Response Plan outlines strategies to prevent heat-related illnesses and fatalities during extreme heat events. It leverages existing infrastructure, resources, and public notification systems to protect the community, especially vulnerable populations.

---

## Key Objectives

1. **Prevent heat-related illnesses and fatalities.**
  2. **Provide timely communication and alerts to the public.**
  3. **Coordinate resources to support vulnerable populations.**
  4. **Equip local responders and agencies with the tools needed for effective heat emergency management.**
- 

## Key Components

### 1. Preparedness

- **Public Notification:**
    - Use the **RAVE Mobile Platform ('Campbell County Alerts')** to issue heat advisories, warnings, and tips.
    - Provide guidance on staying hydrated, seeking shade, and checking on vulnerable neighbors.
    - Notify public and private facilities of heat-related safety measures.
  - **Training and Awareness:**
    - Offer annual training sessions for responders on heat-related illness management.
    - Conduct public education campaigns before and during heat season (May–September).
  - **Infrastructure Readiness:**
    - Ensure emergency response vehicles equipped for shelter and decontamination are available for deployment.
    - Maintain operational readiness of mass casualty and shelter support equipment.
- 

### 2. Incident Assessment

- **Triggers for Activation:**
  - The National Weather Service issuing a Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Warning.

- The maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105 degrees or higher for at least two (2) days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 70 degrees.
  - Reports of heat-related illnesses or fatalities.
  - **Authorization:**
    - Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director initiates heat emergency protocols.
  - **Assessment Teams:**
    - Coordinate with local health agencies and hospitals for real-time monitoring of heat-related medical cases.
    - Evaluate the needs of vulnerable populations.
- 

### 3. Response

- **Public Cooling Centers:**
    - Activate designated cooling centers at community centers, libraries, and schools.
    - Ensure centers are accessible and equipped with water, first aid, and cooling supplies.
  - **Emergency Notifications:**
    - Use **Campbell County Alerts** for SMS, email, and social media notifications.
    - Messages to include:
      - Location and hours of cooling centers.
      - Heat safety tips.
      - Transportation options for those unable to travel to cooling centers.
  - **Community Outreach:**
    - Deploy volunteers and staff to check on high-risk groups, including the elderly, young children, and those with pre-existing health conditions.
    - Provide water distribution at strategic locations.
  - **Responder Coordination:**
    - Equip rescue squads with additional supplies for heat-related emergencies.
    - Provide real-time updates to first responders via emergency communication systems.
- 

### 4. Recovery

- **Community Assessment:**
  - Evaluate the impact of the heat event, including health outcomes and resource utilization.
  - Collect data from hospitals, shelters, and public health agencies.
- **Resource Replenishment:**
  - Restock water supplies, cooling equipment, and first aid kits.
  - Inspect and service emergency vehicles and cooling center facilities.

- **Public Communication:**
    - Issue post-event updates summarizing community response efforts and recovery timelines.
- 

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Campbell County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**

- Lead the activation and coordination of heat emergency protocols.
- Oversee public notifications and alerts using the RAVE Mobile Platform.

### **Public Information Officer (PIO)**

- Draft, verify, and disseminate emergency messages.

### **Local Agencies and Partners**

- **Health Departments:** Monitor health impacts and provide medical assistance.
- **Community Organizations:** Assist with outreach and cooling center operations.
- **Law Enforcement and EMS:** Support transportation and safety efforts.

### **General Public**

- Subscribe to **Campbell County Alerts**.
  - Follow recommended heat safety practices.
  - Report heat-related concerns to emergency services.
- 

## **Plan Evaluation**

- Conduct annual drills and tests of the heat emergency response system.
- Review and update the plan based on after-action reports and public feedback.

This Heat Emergency Response Plan ensures Campbell County remains prepared, responsive, and resilient in the face of extreme heat events, prioritizing community safety and well-being.

January 2025