

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.**
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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.
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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.
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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.
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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.
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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.
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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.

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