

CHAPTER VI PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT AND DUTIES
SUBJECT 4
TOPIC 1 **EXCESSIVE HEAT WATCH or WARNING**

PURPOSE:

A. To ensure the health and welfare of the citizens of Cincinnati, during periods of high heat, the Cincinnati Health Department and/or Health Commissioner will declare a “**Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch or Excessive Heat Warning**” depending upon the severity and longevity of the extreme weather conditions. (see attachment). During these periods, city departments implement various plans designed to provide a greater level of service to help our citizens cope with the dangerous effects of heat and humidity.

B. When a “**Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch or Excessive Heat Warning**” is declared by the Health Department, the following policy shall be followed:

POLICY

A. **Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch or Excessive Heat Warning**

1. Medic Units shall record on the Form 34, the total number of heat related runs made by their respective units. At 0700 hrs., an ALS Supervisor will contact these companies and record the total number of heat related runs for the previous day. This information will then be forwarded to the Health Department by EMS One.

Note: A heat-related run means that we believe the heat caused the person to call the Fire Department for assistance, become ill, or the heat exacerbated an existing medical condition.

2. Routine Fire Company inspections shall be suspended.

ATTACHMENT:**Cincinnati Heat Monitoring Program 2014****City of Cincinnati Health Department****Center for Public Health Preparedness**

The Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) will rely upon the National Weather Service (NWS) for all weather related predictions and will base all actions upon NWS defined criteria as listed below.

Hazardous Weather Outlook or Special Weather Statement

NWS issues a Hazardous Weather Outlook or Special Weather Statement when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook is designed to provide information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event, such as public utilities, emergency management and public health officials.

When the NWS declares a Hazardous Weather Outlook or Special Weather Statement for high temperatures the following procedures will be activated:

1. The Heat Monitoring staff will notify the following that a Hazardous Weather Outlook or Special Weather Statement has been, or will be, declared by the NWS:
 - a. Public Information Officer (PIO), CHD Health Commissioner
 - b. Director, Public Health Nursing (DON), CHD
 - c. Medical Director (CHD)
2. The Media staff may prepare and send a joint press release from the Health Commissioner and Mayor using media lists containing the local newspapers, radio stations and television stations. The press release will include basic heat safety information. Other media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and the City website may be used to disseminate information. The determination of whether to disseminate heat information will be based upon:
 - a. The length of time from the last press release regarding heat.
 - b. The professional judgment of the PIO.

Heat Advisory

NWS issues a Heat Advisory when heat indices from 100° F-104°F are expected during a single day.

Excessive Heat Watch or Warning

NWS issues an **Excessive Heat Watch** when heat indices in excess of 105°F during the day combined with nighttime heat index of 75°F or higher are **forecast** to occur.

NWS Issues an **Excessive Heat Warning** when temperatures are **forecast** to reach 105 **or** 100°F-104°F for two or more consecutive days. Warnings are issued for actual (observed) 105 F or higher heat index as well.

When the NWS declares a Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch or Excessive Heat Warning, the following procedures will be activated:

1. The Heat Monitoring staff will notify the following that an Advisory, Watch or Warning has been, or will be, declared by the NWS:
 - a. PIO, CHD Health Commissioner
 - b. Director, Public Health Nursing, CHD
 - c. Medical Director (CHD)
2. The Media staff may prepare and send a joint press release from the Health Commissioner and Mayor using media lists containing the local newspapers, radio stations and television stations. The press release will include basic heat safety information. Other media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and the City website may be used to disseminate information. The determination of whether to disseminate heat information will be based upon:
 - a. The length of time from the last press release regarding heat.
 - b. The professional judgment of the PIO.
3. The Heat Monitoring team will notify the following that an Advisory, Watch or Warning has been declared by the NWS:
 - a. PIO, CHD Health Commissioner
 - b. City Mayor
 - c. Cincinnati Recreation Department
 - d. Director, Public Health Nursing, CHD
 - e. Police Division, Communications Supervisor
 - f. Fire Division, Fire Dispatch
 - g. Duke Energy
 - h. Greater Cincinnati Water Works
 - i. Cincinnati Bell
 - j. Employee Safety
 - k. Hamilton County Coroner's Office
 - l. City Manager
 - m. Deputy City Manager
 - n. Medical Director (CHD)
 - o. Health Commissioners, or their designees, who have been asked to be notified

4. Acting as the Mayor's designee, the Heat Monitoring Team will:
 - a. Coordinate activities with the Mayor's staff regarding the Excessive Heat Warning.
 - b. Contact the utility companies (Duke Energy, Cincinnati Bell, and the Greater Cincinnati Water Works) and request that shutoffs be discontinued during the Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch or Warning. The Health Commissioner's Office will deliver a follow-up fax to Duke Energy specifying the exact date and time that the Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning was declared per Duke request.
 - c. Notify the Cincinnati Recreation Department that an Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning has been declared and ask that recreation centers be available during regular hours as "cool centers."
 - d. After being notified by the Police Division, Communications Supervisor, Public Vehicles will notify all horse-drawn carriage companies that an Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning has been declared. Per agreement with City Council, horse-drawn carriages will not operate during an Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning. On weekends and holidays carriage drivers will check with the District I Police Division staff to find out if an Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning has been declared.
 - e. During the length of an Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning, the Heat Monitoring Team will contact the Hamilton County Coroner's Office to obtain the number of heat-related deaths confirmed for the previous day.
 - f. After being notified by the Communication Center, the CFD will:
 - i. Tabulate heat related ambulance runs
 - ii. Ensure that all ambulances have the proper medical supplies to respond to heat related runs

Cancelling an Excessive Heat Watch or Warning

The Heat Advisory Watch or Warning will remain in effect until canceled by the NWS. When the NWS notifies the Heat Monitoring Team of a cancellation, the following procedure will be activated:

1. Heat Monitoring team will notify the following that the Excessive Heat Advisory Watch or Warning has been canceled by the NWS:
 - a. PIO, CHD Health Commissioner
 - b. City Mayor
 - c. Cincinnati Recreation Department
 - d. Director, Public Health Nursing, CHD

- e. Police Division, Communications Supervisor
 - f. Fire Division, Fire Dispatch
 - g. Duke Energy
 - h. Greater Cincinnati Water Works
 - i. Cincinnati Bell
 - j. Employee Safety
 - k. Hamilton County Coroner's Office
 - l. City Manager
 - m. Deputy City Manager
 - n. Medical Director (CHD)
 - o. Health Commissioners, or their designees, who have been asked to be notified
2. Staff will discontinue reporting heat related data to the Health Commissioner.
3. After being notified by the Police Division Communications Supervisor, Public Vehicles staff will notify the horse-drawn carriage companies to inform them that the Heat Emergency has been canceled. On weekends and holidays, carriage drivers will check with the District I Police Division staff to find out if a Heat Advisory, Watch or Warning has been cancelled.