



Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County

Delaware County Extreme Heat Plan
Version 1

Purpose: To help protect the health and safety of vulnerable populations in Delaware County by providing a structured response to extreme heat events.

Scope: This plan covers Delaware County's response to extreme heat events.



CODE RED

MONITORING PERIOD: June 1 - September 30

MONITORING LOCATION: Upper Darby, and Chester

CRITERIA: Based on the temperature and relative humidity percentage there is an apparent temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher during the hours of 12:00 - 20:00 PM for 2 or more hours.

Table of Contents

Section 1: Preparation	3
1.1 Risk Assessment	3
1.2 Infrastructure Review	3
1.3 Training	3
1.4 Communication	3
1.5 Weather Monitoring	4
Section 2: Standard Heat Index Crisis Criteria and Individual Responses	5
Section 3: National Weather Service Criteria and HeatRisk Categories	7
3.1 NWS Criteria for Delaware County	7
3.2 NWS HeatRisk Categories	7
Section 4: COSA	9
4.1 COSA Responsibilities	9
4.2 Long Term Services & Support during a heat crisis	10
Section 5: Cooling Centers	12
5.1 Cooling Center Locations	12
Section 6: Additional Resources	14
6.1 Services in the County	14
6.2 Preventive Care	14
6.3 Health Monitoring	15
6.4 Public Messaging	15
Section 7: Plan Review and Update	16
7.1 Regular Updates	16
7.2 Continuous Improvement	16
Section 8: Contacts	17

Section 1: Preparation

1.1 Risk Assessment

Identify Vulnerable Populations:

- Older adults (60 years of age or older), infants and children
- Women who are pregnant, individuals on certain medications, and/or those with preexisting health conditions which make them more sensitive to the heat
- Individuals without a reliable source of cooling and/or hydration
- Outdoor workers, temporary workers, or those returning to work after a week or more off
- Those without access to adequate shelter or medical care
- Those not acclimated to the level of heat expected, especially those who are new to the climate
- Those who are more difficult to reach through ordinary communication channels (live alone, unhoused, non-English speaking, illiterate, culturally/socially isolated)

AGENCY:

- Delaware County Health Department (DCHD)
- Homeless Services Coalition, Adult and Family Services (DHS)
- Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)

1.2 Infrastructure Review

Assess the condition and readiness of public health facilities, emergency shelters, and critical infrastructure. *[Note: implementation of this item is in the planning stages.]*

AGENCY:

- Department of Emergency Services (DES)

1.3 Training

Staff Training: DCHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team will coordinate 1 exercise annually with partners to simulate an extreme temperature event and our individual responses.

AGENCY:

- DCHD

1.4 Communication *Note: implementation of this item in Everbridge is a work in progress.]*

Internal Communication: The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will notify partners via Everbridge of the extreme temperature event.

AGENCY:

- DCHD

Emergency Contacts: Maintain an updated list of local emergency contacts, including hospitals, first responders, and utility companies.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

Alert Systems: Utilize Everbridge and Delco Alert to communicate warnings and instructions to the public. Additional resources will be uploaded to the Delaware County website and social media.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

1.5 Weather Monitoring

The DES On-call Watch Officer will continue to monitor the weather in Delaware County through the National Weather Service (NWS) website. In the event there is extreme temperature, DES will continue to send key messages and maps of the region to partners through Everbridge.



The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will monitor the weather through the NWS website. The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will specifically use the side bar feature to search 2 locations in Delaware County. Based on the geography and Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), the 2 locations included are Upper Darby and Chester. Once the location has been entered into the side bar, NWS will provide a detailed forecast, satellite imaging, and hourly weather forecast. Based on the findings, if necessary, DCHD will declare an extreme weather event and coordinate with partners to activate response efforts.

The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer and DES On-call Watch Officer will communicate weather findings.

AGENCY:

- DCHD
 - DES
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Section 2: Standard Heat Index Crisis Criteria and Individual Responses

CODE RED			June 1 – September 30
Standard Heat Index Crisis Criteria and Individual Responses			
Category	Criteria	Participant Response	
Code Red	Based on the temperature and relative humidity percentage there is an apparent temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher during the hours of 12:00 - 20:00 PM for 2 or more hours.	<p>The <u>DCHD PHEP Weather Observer</u> will monitor the weather at 9:00 AM. Based upon weather findings, the DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will notify external partners the criteria have been met and there is an anticipated Code Red. The Weather Observer will communicate the anticipated event and identify the timeline of the event (1 day vs. multiple days) to the following partners via Everbridge.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p><u>DCHD</u> – The PHEP Weather Observer will monitor the Everbridge Chat for external updates and information such as cooling center locations.</p> <p><u>DES</u>- Confirm you have received the notification. The Watch Officer will continue to monitor the weather. The On-Call Watch Officer can utilize the Everbridge chat to communicate weather updates or to inform the DCHD PHEP Weather Observer of new findings.</p> <p><u>COSA</u> - Confirm you have received the notification. Will alert Senior Center Directors of the anticipated Code Red. After receiving confirmation of the COSA-sponsored senior centers that will operate as cooling centers the Everbridge Chat function will be utilized to communicate the hours and addresses of cooling center locations. The Senior Center Directors will organize and provide resources to individuals 60 and older.</p> <p><u>DHS</u> – Confirm you have received the notification. Use the Everbridge chat function to communicate possible sheltering and cooling center locations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Upon receiving confirmation of cooling center information from external partners through the Everbridge chat, the <u>DCHD PHEP Weather Observer</u> will draft a message composed of the Code Red and a link to useful resources. This message will be sent to community members through Everbridge and Delco Alert channels.</p> <p><u>DCHD</u>: Code Red and cooling center information will be uploaded to the county website and social media. The Wellness Line will be</p>	

		<p>available to assist community members in preparation and awareness resources.</p> <p><u>DES</u> – The On-Call Watch Officer will continue to monitor the weather. DES can use the Everbridge chat function to share cooling center locations that have been made available through municipalities. The On-Call Watch Officer can utilize the Everbridge chat to communicate weather updates or to inform the DCHD PHEP Weather Observer of new findings.</p> <p><u>COSA</u>: During the timeline of the Code Red the confirmed senior centers will open as cooling center locations. Senior center Directors will continue to organize and provide resources to individuals 60 and older. Supervisors, care managers, and accessors will identify and provide support to at-risk consumers.</p> <p><u>DHS</u>: Will use the Everbridge chat function to communicate possible sheltering and cooling center locations.</p> <p>*All Code Red response operations will cease in correspondence of the last day identified in the timeline of the event unless given further instruction by DCHD*</p>
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Many of the services described in this section are in place and operational from **June 1 - September 30** regardless of the temperature for vulnerable and unsheltered people in Delaware County.

Section 3: National Weather Service Criteria and HeatRisk Categories

3.1 NWS Criteria for Delaware County

Heat Advisory	Maximum apparent temperature values are expected to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96 to 104 degrees (Through June 30th to account for early season impacts)• 100 to 104 degrees (After July 1st as people have become more acclimated to the heat)
Extreme Heat Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditions are favorable for maximum apparent temperatures of 105 degrees or higher and/or significant heat impacts in the next several days.• Could be issued up to 3 days in advance of impact.
Extreme Heat Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum apparent temperature values of 105 degrees or higher and/or significant heat impacts are expected.• Generally issued within 36 hours of any impacts.

3.2 NWS HeatRisk Categories

- This is the National Weather Service HeatRisk experimental color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. HeatRisk takes into consideration:
 - How unusual the heat is for the time of the year
 - The duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures
 - If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the CDC.

This index is supplementary to official NWS heat products and is meant to provide risk guidance for those decision makers and heat-sensitive populations who need to take actions at levels that may be below current NWS heat product levels.

Note: This is currently an experimental tool. This tool will not be used to ultimately determine if there is a Code Red but can be tapped into to help the PHEP Weather Observer see the effects of the weather conditions on heat-sensitive populations.

Category	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.

Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heattrisk/pdf/HeatRisk-v2.5-Understanding-HeatRisk.pdf>

Section 4: COSA

4.1 COSA Responsibilities

Varying COSA-sponsored senior centers will participate in the Delaware County Extreme Heat Emergency Plan. The Senior Center Director will be responsible for:

- Providing educational sessions throughout the summer months on heat related topics with a focus on its impact on older adults.
- Daily reminders are encouraged, especially during a heat crisis, to help decrease the risk of heat related disease.
- Providing informational flyers to their in-home clients to remind them and their caregivers of heat related issues and safety interventions.
- Maintaining pitchers of cold ice water or other non-caffeinated beverages on the tables throughout the day to reinforce the practice of taking cool liquids frequently to prevent dehydration.
- Reinforcing with homebound drivers the need to check with consumers to ensure they have adequate cool water available and that their home has adequate ventilation. Drivers are to report to the meal supervisor any consumers they believe to be at risk.
- Identifying members who they feel may be at risk, contacting them to determine their status, and helping solve problems.
- Reminding caregivers about safety issues involving the heat and the effects of heat on the elderly.
- Determining if extended hours can be provided during a heat crisis at their center.
- Determining if the center will be open with extended hours on an as needed basis.
- Notifying consumers who receive home delivered meals of any change in the normal meal delivery schedule.

AGENCY:

- COSA

COSA-Sponsored Senior Center Locations <i>*During an extreme heat event cooling center locations and hours of operation may vary; please call or check social media for updates*</i>			
Chester Senior Center	721 Hayes St Chester, 19013	610-497-3550	http://www.scsdelco.org/centers/chester.shtml
Friendship Circle	1515 Lansdowne Ave Darby, 19023	610-237-6222	http://www.scsdelco.org/centers/friendship.shtml

Good Neighbor Senior Center	1085 Hook Rd Sharon Hill, 19079	610-586-8170	http://www.scsdelco.org/centers/neighbor.shtml
Schoolhouse Senior Center	600 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033	610-237-8100	https://www.scsdelco.org/mission-and-overview/
Surrey Center for Healthy Living	505 Parkway Drive Broomall, PA 19008	610-446-2070	https://surreyservices.org
Surrey Media	302 South Jackson St Media, 19063	610-566-0505	http://www.surreyservices.org
Upper Darby Senior Center	326 Watkins Ave Upper Darby, 19082	610-734-7652	http://www.upperdarby.org/Gov/Leisure_Services/Senior_Center.html
Wayne Senior Center	108 Station Rd, Wayne PA	(610) 688-6246	https://wayneseniorcenter.org/

4.2 Long Term Services & Support during a heat crisis

Supervisors, care managers, and assessors will:

- Review their caseload to identify consumers identified “at risk” using the following long-term services and supports criteria as a guide. A consumer will be considered “at risk” if they:
 1. Have limited, nonexistent, or inconsistent informal supports.
 2. Have no phone.
 3. Are home or bedbound.
 4. Live alone or with other frail or disabled persons.
 5. Have a history of mental or cognitive impairment.
 6. Have a prior history of problems with inadequate heating or cooling for the home.
 7. Have limited financial resources.
 8. Have health needs that require the utilization of medical equipment using electricity.
- A list of “at risk” consumers will be developed and be available at all times to the supervisor and care manager. This list should be updated at least monthly and should contain the following consumer information.
 1. Name
 2. Address
 3. Telephone number
 4. Emergency contact and telephone number

5. Primary care physician

- A list of “at risk” consumers will be provided to COSA’s Program Director of Home and Community Based Services.

The supervisor will communicate any necessary information to the staff throughout the crisis. It will be the supervisor’s responsibility to assure that consumers are contacted on the weekend or holiday.

The care managers will call their consumers or their emergency contacts on the list to determine their status and to help solve problems.

If a problem is identified and cannot be resolved over the phone, they should contact COSA’s emergency on-call number or the police, depending on the situation.

AGENCY:

- COSA

Section 5: Cooling Centers

5.1 Cooling Center Locations

Upon the announcement of an extreme heat emergency cooling centers with access to air conditioning and hydration will open. Alert PECO regarding locations of cooling centers as priority locations for service if power outages occur.

AGENCY:

- The DCHD PHEP Weather Observer will receive confirmation of cooling center locations from external partners through Everbridge.
- DCHD will coordinate information sharing with community members through the Wellness Line, county website, and social media accounts.
- Local municipalities may identify additional centers.
- Varying COSA-sponsored senior centers may operate as cooling centers, extend hours, and provide hydration to residents over 60 years old.
- DES coordination with PECO to prioritize areas with cooling centers in the event of a power outage.
- Residents are encouraged to stay indoors during extreme heat events. Residents are encouraged to seek air conditioning in public places such as libraries or malls.
 - Delaware County Libraries
 - Individuals can utilize Delaware County Libraries for access to air conditioning. In the event of a Code Red hours of operation will not be extended and hydration will not be available.

Following the link below will guide you to access all member libraries, and their current hours. Library hours may vary: <https://www.delcolibraries.org/about-us/locations>

Library	Address	City
Helen Kate Furness Free Library	100 North Providence Road	Wallingford
J. Lewis Crozer Library	620 Engle Street	Chester
Lansdowne Public Library	55 South Lansdowne Avenue	Lansdowne
Marple Public Library	2599 Sproul Road	Broomall
Newtown Public Library	201 Bishop Hollow Road	Newtown Square
Rachel Kohl Community Library	687 Smithbridge Road	Glen Mills
Radnor Memorial Library	114 W Wayne Avenue	Wayne
Sharon Hill Public Library	246 Sharon Avenue	Sharon Hill

Tinicum Memorial Public Library	620 Seneca Street	Essington
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Municipal Branch	501 Bywood Avenue	Upper Darby
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Primos Branch	409 Ashland Avenue	Secane
Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library – Sellers Branch	76 South State Road	Upper Darby
Yeadon Public Library	809 Longacre Boulevard	Yeadon

Section 6: Additional Resources

6.1 Services in the County

The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) – Coordinates the Extreme Heat Emergency Plan for residents and works to develop health risk criteria for at risk individuals. DCHD will identify shelter and cooling center locations. Residents can contact the DCHD Wellness Line for resources and guidance in the event of a weather emergency. The Wellness Line can be contacted by calling: (484) 276-2100 or by emailing: DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us After hour calls will be answered by an answering service.

County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) – Provides resources including educational components of heat, encouragement of fan/air conditioner usage, and information to prevent heat-related illnesses for residents 60 years of age or older. COSA-sponsored senior centers will be available for residents 60 years of age or older. Senior centers will provide resources including informational flyers, and safety interventions. Residents can contact COSA by calling: (610) 490-1300 with questions or to request assistance. After hour calls are answered by an answering service. Residents can also use the 'COSA Sponsored Senior Center' chart above to find specific locations, hours, and contact information.

FindHelp – Residents can use the online website, FindHelp, to specifically search their zip code to access a list of programs available in that specific area. Resources include food pantry locations, sheltering and housing opportunities, and more. Hovering over the different topics will pull up additional sub-tabs that provide more detailed options. Residents can use the following link to access the online resource: <https://www.findhelp.org/>.

PA Navigate- Residents can use the online website, PA Navigate, to search for resources within Pennsylvania including food pantry locations, sheltering opportunities, and more. FindHelp created PA Navigate to connect PA residents to services and resources specifically in their community. Residents can use the following link to access the online resource: <https://pa-navigate.org/>

6.2 Preventive Care

- Distribute resources to vulnerable populations.

AGENCY:

- COSA
 - Provides fans to residents over 60 when the summer/warm weather hits. COSA also provides food-based needs throughout the year.
 - Fan distribution is held at COSA-funded senior centers, and COSA's Baldwin Tower Office in Eddystone: 1510 Chester Pike, Eddystone, PA 19022.
 - During periods of extreme heat COSA-Sponsored Senior Centers may distribute cold water to individuals.
 - Residents can contact COSA by calling: (610) 490-1300

6.3 Health Monitoring

- Set up outreach programs to check on vulnerable individuals and provide guidance on heat-related illness prevention.

AGENCY:

- DCHD guidance on heat-related illness prevention.
- COSA

6.4 Public Messaging

Issue regular updates on heat advisories, hydration tips, and cooling center locations. Residents can register for Delco Alert to receive emergency notification communication regarding extreme weather emergencies by using the online link:

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612334/new> To receive information regarding weather events, residents are encouraged to add the following to their subscriptions:

- County of Delaware – County Office of Services for the Aging
- County of Delaware – Emergency Preparedness
- County of Delaware – Delaware County Health Department

AGENCY:

- DCHD
- DES

Section 7: Plan Review and Update

7.1 Regular Updates

Annual Review: Review and update the extreme temperature plan annually to incorporate new information and feedback. Identify strengths and areas for improvement. Update the plan based on feedback and new insights.

AGENCY:

- All

Stakeholder Feedback: Engage with community stakeholders and emergency responders to refine the plan.

AGENCY:

- DCHD lead with input from all partner agencies

7.2 Continuous Improvement

Training Exercises: Conduct regular simulation exercises to test and improve response procedures.

AGENCY:

- All

Policy Updates: Stay informed about advancements in emergency management and update policies as needed.

AGENCY:

- All
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Section 8: Contacts

County Contact Information			
Delaware County Health Department (DCHD)	484-276-2100	Health Information	https://www.delcopa.gov/health/
Delaware County Emergency Services (DES)	610-565-8700	Weather Monitoring	https://www.delcopa.gov/departments/emergencyservices.html
Adult and Family Services	610-713-2365	Housing Resource	https://www.delcohsa.org/
County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)	610-490-1300	Senior Citizen Outreach	https://www.delcosa.org/
Community Action Agency of Delaware Co. (CAADC)	610-874-8451	Human Services Energy Assistance Program	https://caadc.org/
Breaking Bread Community	484-462-0135	Shelter	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
Life Center of Eastern Delaware County	610-734-5770	Shelter	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
Salvation Army	610-874-0423	Shelter	http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/
Delco Homeless Services	267-671-4357		http://www.delcohomelessservices.org/