

**California
Emergency Management
Agency**



**Contingency Plan for Excessive Heat
Emergencies**

April 20, 2010

Cal EMA

Vision
To enhance safety and preparedness in California through strong leadership and meaningful partnerships.

Mission
Protect lives and property by effectively preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from all threats, crimes, hazards and emergencies.

**Heat Contingency Plan
Purpose & Scope**

The Plan describes state operations during heat related emergencies and provides guidance for State agencies, local governments, and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of their heat emergency response plans.


The Plan recognizes a need for the state to:

- 1) Communicate and coordinate with State agencies and local governments;
- 2) Mobilize resources and initiate actions in advance of local requests; and
- 3) Support the local government's actions according to the Standardized Emergency Management System.



Impacts of Heat Waves

- While heat waves are obviously less dramatic than earthquakes, floods, or fires, they are potentially more deadly.
- The worst single heat wave event in California occurred in Southern California in 1955, when an 8 day heat wave resulted in 946 deaths.
- Heat emergencies have claimed more lives over the past 16 years than all other declared disaster events combined.
- While typical summer temperatures in California contribute to the untimely demise of 20 people on average per year, the heat wave experienced by California in 2006 caused the death of at least 140 people over a 13 day period.
- Heat waves do not strike victims immediately, but rather their cumulative effects slowly take the lives of vulnerable populations.




Plan Activation Phases

Phase I - Seasonal Readiness
Actions are taken in the hotter months (May through August) to prepare for and maintain a state of increased readiness. This includes: Initial notification of key stakeholders, Review of existing plans, procedures and resources, Initiating awareness campaigns.

Phase II - Heat Alert
Actions are taken as a result of credible predictions by NWS of excessive heat or of power outages during warmer than normal weather conditions. During this phase, contact with local agencies and coordination among state agencies increases.

Phase III - Heat Emergency
Actions are taken when one or more of the following exists:

- Notification from OA that a jurisdiction proclaimed an emergency related to heat.
- Abnormal animal mortality rates due to excessive heat.
- Abnormal human medical emergencies and mortality due to excessive heat.
- CAISO Stage 3 Electrical Emergency and/or extended power outages.



California State Warning Center

Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the California State Warning Center (CSWC) is responsible for informing, communicating, alerting and notifying executive leadership of any natural or human caused emergency.

- Constant communication with local, state, and federal partners to ensure early warning or quick response to any developing emergencies.
- This includes weather...

CSWC Weather Partner - National Weather Service

GOALS: Early Warning - Communication - Coordination

National Weather Service

- *NWS data and products from a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.*
- *Nine (9) NWS, Weather Forecast Offices provide forecast information for California.*
- *Established link and partnership exists with between NWS and CSWC.*

CSWC / NWS Partnership

CSWC: Continuously Monitors NWS Products

- *Broadcast Bulletin Service = Weather data is received 24 hours a day by CSWC*
 - *Severe Weather Info: Example – Watches and Warnings*
 - *Routine Weather Info: Forecasts*
- *CSWC publishes a daily **Weather Outlook***
 - *Cal EMA Duty Officers and Executive Leadership*
 - *State Agency / Department Duty Officers*
 - *Weather Awareness Stakeholders*

Weather Information Coordination

- *Upon credible prediction of weather event by NWS of event such as HEAT:*

CSWC Actions:

- 1. Brief affected local Warning Point*
- 2. Brief Cal EMA Duty Officers*
- 3. Brief Cal EMA Executive Leadership*
 - ✓ *A determination is made to initiate Phase II - Heat Alert, of Heat Contingency Plan*

Weather Information Coordination

- *Upon Initiation of Phase II – Heat Alert:*

CSWC Actions:

- 1. Coordinate State Agency Weather Conference Call*
- 2. Schedule NWS call attendance*
 - *Sacramento Weather Office coordinates participation of NWS Offices responsible for California forecast products.*
- 3. Notification is sent to key State Response Agencies*
- 4. CSWC facilitates call with Cal EMA, NWS and Partners*

Weather Information Coordination

NOTE:

- *Every weather event will vary.*
- *Consideration is given to the affected area and the potential size and scope of the event when coordinating information and conference calls.*