



# **COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**



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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Date: July 17, 2019**

## **Hunterdon County OEM Prepared For Hot Weather**

The Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reports that the National Weather Service warns of high temperatures over the next few days into the weekend, that could exceed 100°, that presents potentially dangerous conditions for which the OEM is prepared.

OEM Coordinator Brayden Fahey told the Freeholder Board at Tuesday's meeting, "The main County Library is available to the public if needed for relief from the heat. In an extreme situation, building #1 at the County Complex on Route 12 is also available. Both are supported by permanent generators to supply independent power." For other locations, [click here](#).

The Weather Service advises that the hottest days are expected to be Friday through Sunday. On those days, heat index values of 100° to 105° are possible. These temperatures are of serious concern to all, but particularly to the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director John E. Lanza, the Board's Public Safety liaison, praised the County's OEM readiness, stating, "The residents of Hunterdon County can have great confidence that the County's OEM team, as well as local teams, know how to prepare for these situations. They plan for it, train for it, and when the time comes implement those plans well."

The heat index, according to the National Weather Service, is a measure of how hot it really feels when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.

Fahey noted, "The simplest and best thing people can do is practice heat safety wherever you are. Limit strenuous activity, stay hydrated, avoid direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time and keep your body temperature low with a cool shower, cold compresses or air conditioning when available. To receive updates in the event of a power outage or other issue, we recommend that residents visit the County website to sign up for our Community Alerts system."

JCP&L suggests setting your thermostat to 78° to save energy, changing your air conditioner filter, using fans to keep air moving in your home, keeping all window shades closed during peak heat times, close rooms that are not regularly used, only operate window air conditioners when someone is in the room and avoid using heat-producing appliances during the hottest hours of the day. Fahey added that, "Utility issues should be reported directly to the provider. Please do not call 9-1-1 to report an outage or attempt to obtain restoration information. The 9-1-1 system should be reserved for life-threatening emergencies."

During the heat wave The National Weather Service recommends the following: reschedule strenuous activities to the coolest part of the day, wear lightweight clothing, eat easy to digest foods, drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol. Use air conditioning or go to a place with air conditioning available and remember your pets are affected by the heat as well; keep them hydrated and as comfortable as possible and never leave them in a hot car.

Hunterdon County has several resources available if you need help during the heat wave.

Hunterdon County Community Alerts: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/communityalerts.html>

Hunterdon Helpline: 908-782-4357

New Jersey 211: dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)

JCP&L: 888-544-4877 (to report outages)

## HEAT EXHAUSTION

OR

## HEAT STROKE

Faint or dizzy



Throbbing headache



Excessive sweating



No sweating



Cool, pale,  
clammy skin

Body temperature  
above 103°



Red, hot, dry skin

Nausea or vomiting



Nausea or vomiting

Rapid, weak pulse



Rapid, strong pulse



Muscle cramps



May lose  
consciousness



- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

# CALL 9-1-1

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

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