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May 20, 2021

PIN 21-07-CCLD

TO: ALL COMMUNITY CARE LICENSED PROVIDERS

FROM: *Original signed by Kevin Gaines*
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SUBJECT: **PREPARING FOR EXTREME HEAT, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS, AND WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 21-07-CCLD informs providers about the need to prepare for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs (PSPS), and wildfire emergencies. It also provides information on the Everbridge Mass Notification System and how it will be used to notify providers of disasters, such as fires and PSPS.

Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where all persons in care as well as families and representatives of persons in care in the facility can access it. Providers are also strongly encouraged to share information in this PIN with persons in care as well as families and if applicable, representatives of persons in care.

Living in California brings the potential for extreme heat, PSPS, and wildfire emergencies. Licensed community care providers have an added responsibility to ensure the health and safety of persons in care should any of these events occur. The information in this PIN is intended to help providers prepare for the following events:

- Heat Preparedness;
- PSPS; and
- Wildfire Emergencies.

This PIN also provides information about emergency plan updates, reporting requirements, and assistance from the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). In addition, this PIN explains how the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will use the Everbridge Mass Notification System to notify providers, to the best of its ability, in advance of, or during, such events.

Heat Preparedness

California weather can bring high temperatures, posing a substantial risk to vulnerable populations that include children, the elderly, and those with disabilities or chronic diseases. Providers should monitor weather predictions and reports for forecasts of, and fluctuations in, extreme temperatures and take extra precautions to ensure persons in care are protected from adverse conditions that may cause heat-related illness. Some warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illness include, but are not limited to:

- Heavy sweating;
- Muscle cramps;
- Weakness;
- Headache;
- Nausea and/or vomiting;
- Diarrhea;
- Tiredness; and
- Dizziness.

Providers should monitor [symptoms](#) daily and persons in care who show symptoms of heat-related illness should receive the appropriate care immediately. The effects of heat-related illness can last up to seven days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and the California Department of Public Health ([CDPH](#)) offer the following tips for staying safe during periods of excessive heat:

- Never leave infants, children, dependent adults, the elderly, or pets in a parked car. It can take as little as 10 minutes for the temperature inside a car to rise to levels that can kill, even if windows are cracked open.
- Drink plenty of fluids, regardless of activity level and even if not thirsty. Avoid really cold drinks, which can cause stomach cramps or drinks with caffeine, alcohol, or high sugar content, which can cause loss of body fluid.

Important! If persons in care have been directed by their doctor to limit the amount of fluid they drink, or if they take water pills, their doctor should provide information on how much they can safely drink when the weather is hot.

- Monitor those on medications. Many medications increase the likelihood of dehydration.
- Avoid hot food and heavy meals. Encourage frozen treats such as popsicles between meals.
- Stay in an air-conditioned area as much as possible. Electric fans may provide comfort, but will not prevent heat-related illness. Call your [local health department](#) to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your area.
- Limit outdoor activity to when it is coolest, for example, during morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas.
- Wear light weight and loose-fitting clothing to keep cool and a wide-brimmed hat to cover the face and neck. Apply sunscreen with Sun Protection Factor 15 or higher 30 minutes prior to going out, to protect skin from the sun. The CDC suggests that sunscreens that say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels, be used. Continue to reapply sunscreen according to package directions.

Important! For family child care homes and child care centers, written approval from a child's authorized representative is required prior to using any medications or over-the-counter products such as sunscreen.

- To prevent overheating, take showers or baths.

While implementing these measures, providers should continue to follow the latest Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) guidance in [CDSS PINs](#) (as applicable to facility type) in addition to guidance or instructions from health care providers, the [CDC](#), [CDPH](#), and local health departments.

Other Precautions

West Nile Virus transmission to people usually happens in summer and early fall when temperatures are warmer. If mosquitoes are abundant, persons in care should remain indoors in the early morning and at twilight, when mosquitoes are most active. Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#) that, when used as directed, are safe and effective.

Important! For family child care homes and child care centers, written approval from a child's authorized representative is required prior to using any medications or over-the-counter products such as insect repellents.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

California fire authorities anticipate a large fire potential in areas that may experience critical weather, such as high winds and dry conditions. California energy companies may initiate PSPS as a preemptive firefighting strategy, in locations experiencing critical weather. However, because energy systems rely on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties, and regions, the power may be shut off in areas not experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions.

If a public safety power shutoff is needed, providers should expect the following to occur:

- **Early Warning Notification.** The energy company will aim to send customer alerts before shutting off power.
- **Ongoing Updates.** The energy company will provide ongoing updates through social media, local news outlets, and their website.
- **Safety Inspections.** After extreme weather has passed, the energy company will inspect the lines in affected areas before power is safely restored.
- **Power Restoration.** Power outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. Power will remain out for as long as extreme and dangerous weather conditions pose a potential fire risk. Depending on the severity of the weather and other factors, power outages could last several hours or multiple days.

Important! In anticipation of PSPS, the CCLD reminds providers to update their energy company with contact information and sign up for alerts to ensure prompt notice when electricity must be turned off for public safety. Please visit [The Power of Being Prepared](#) to learn more about PSPS and how to sign up for alerts from utility companies. In addition, providers should be mindful that downed power lines may be energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move power lines, keep people and animals away, leave the area immediately, and call 911.

Wildfire Emergencies

Wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape. The fire season is starting earlier and ending later each year. Because of this, the state may no longer have a wildfire "season", but rather, a year-round risk of wildfires. Being prepared has never been more important, especially with potential events of severe weather. To prepare for wildfire emergencies, providers are encouraged to:

- Create a [Wildfire Action Plan](#) that includes identifying several alternative escape routes from the facility and community.

- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers are always in place and working.
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated on a fire, since cell phone service may not be available.
- Create a defensible space around their facility by trimming trees and other vegetation, clearing away dead branches, wood piles, and vegetation from the roof, patio furniture, and play equipment, and keeping rain gutters free of debris.

Emergency Plan Updates, Reporting Requirements, and CCLD Assistance

CCLD reminds providers to review their facility's emergency disaster plan to ensure it complies with applicable statutes and regulations. CCLD also reminds providers to update the local Regional Office with any changes to their contact information, including any changes to their telephone number or email address (see below for Regional Office contact information).

Incidents/occurrences such as injuries, illnesses, or deaths related to the topics in this PIN shall be reported to the local licensing office. Providers are encouraged to review their facility's applicable reporting requirements.

Everbridge Emergency Notification System

CCLD will continue to use the **Everbridge Emergency Notification System** to notify licensed facilities, to the best of its ability, in advance of, or during, disaster events (including fires and PSPS) and to ensure the health and safety of persons in care. These notifications are sent based on mappings to identify facilities impacted by an event. Everbridge uses provider and facility contact information provided to local Regional Offices. Contacts are made via text, email, and/or phone call. Notifications sent via Everbridge will attempt to inform providers in the geographic area of an event where their facilities may be impacted or may request a response on a facility's evacuation status specifically to an event where evacuations are involved.

It is important for providers to provide a response on a facility's status as soon as possible when an Everbridge notification is received. If a response is not received via Everbridge when requested, CCLD will contact the provider or facility daily in order to acquire that information.

Responding to Everbridge notifications when requested will help both CDSS and provider communicate effectively and efficiently during a disaster. Depending on what response is provided, the Department may follow up with providers to gather more information.

CDSS will release a detailed PIN on the current use of Everbridge soon.

Additional Resources

The following resources are available online:

- CDC:
 - [Prevent Tick and Mosquito Bites](#)
 - [Protecting Vulnerable Groups from Extreme Heat](#)
- CDPH:
 - [All-Facilities Letter 20-54 Hot Summer Weather Advisory](#)
 - [Tips for Treating Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [California Office of Emergency Services](#): for the latest news on emergencies.
- National Weather Service: [Watches, Warnings or Advisories for California](#)

If you have any questions regarding this PIN, please contact your local CCLD Regional Office:

- [Adult and Senior Care Regional Offices](#)
- [Child Care Regional Offices](#)
- [Children's Residential Regional Offices](#)