

Borough of Maywood Extreme Temperature Event Plan

Mission:

In the face of an ever-changing climate and the increasing frequency of extreme temperature events, the Borough of Maywood is committed to safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of its residents. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) recognizes the profound impacts that extreme temperatures can have on our community, including health risks, infrastructural stress, and disruptions to daily life.

This Extreme Temperature Event Plan has been developed to provide a comprehensive framework for preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. It outlines strategies for mitigating the adverse effects of both extreme heat and extreme cold, ensuring that our community remains resilient in the face of these challenges. Through coordinated efforts with local agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, and residents, the OEM aims to minimize the impact of extreme temperature events and to enhance our collective capacity to respond effectively.

This plan reflects our commitment to proactive planning, effective communication, and the implementation of best practices to protect our most vulnerable populations. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience in Maywood, where every resident is informed, equipped, and supported in the face of extreme temperature events.

Together, we can ensure that Maywood remains a safe and thriving community, resilient to the challenges posed by extreme temperatures.

Plan:

1. Description of Primary Decision-Making Factors, Values, or Principles

The primary decision-making factors for the Extreme Temperature Event Plan are based on the following values and principles:

- **Human Safety and Health:** The foremost priority is to protect human life and ensure the health and well-being of the community, particularly vulnerable populations.

(*see attached list of identified vulnerable population*)

- **Preparedness and Responsiveness:** Strategies must be proactive, ensuring readiness before events, and responsive, allowing for swift action during events.

- **Equity and Accessibility:** All strategies should consider equity, ensuring that resources and assistance are accessible to all, especially marginalized and at-risk groups.

- **Collaboration and Coordination:** Effective communication and coordination among local government agencies, non-profits, and community organizations are crucial for successful implementation.

- **Sustainability and Resilience:** Strategies should promote long-term resilience to extreme temperature events, considering environmental sustainability.

2. Person/Title Responsible for Declaring Heat/Cold Emergencies

The **Emergency Management Director** is responsible for declaring heat and cold emergencies. This individual collaborates with meteorologists, public health officials, and other relevant authorities to make informed decisions.

3. Criteria for Defining Extreme Temperature Events and Identification Responsibility

Heat Waves:

- **Criteria:** A heat wave is defined as a period of at least three consecutive days with maximum temperatures exceeding 90°F (32°C), accompanied by high humidity levels (heat index values of 100°F or higher).

Cold Snaps:

- **Criteria:** A cold snap is defined as a period of at least three consecutive days with minimum temperatures below 32°F (0°C), coupled with wind chills making temperatures feel below 20°F (-6°C).

- **Identification Responsibility:** The National Weather Service (NWS), in collaboration with **County and Local Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**

4. Resources for Implementing the Plan

People:

- **Emergency Management Personnel:** Responsible for coordination and implementation of the plan.
- **Public Health Officials:** Provide guidance on health-related issues and risks.
- **Volunteers and Community Organizations:** Assist in outreach and support efforts.

Buildings:

- **Cooling Centers:** Community centers, libraries, and other public buildings designated as cooling centers during heat waves.
- **Warming Centers:** Shelters, community centers, and other public buildings designated as warming centers during cold snaps.

-**Maywood Recreation Center: 145 West Magnolia**

-**3rd Floor Conference Room: 15 Park Avenue**

-**Bergen County identified locations: *List provided during Heat/Cold Emergency***

Equipment:

- **Generators:** For backup power at critical facilities.
- **Heating/Cooling Equipment:** Portable heaters, air conditioners, and fans.
- **Transportation:** Buses and vans for transporting vulnerable individuals to safe locations.

5. Strategies to Meet the Needs of Vulnerable Populations

- **Identification and Outreach:** Maintain a registry of vulnerable individuals (elderly, disabled, low-income) and ensure they are contacted and informed during extreme temperature events.
- **Transportation Services:** Provide free or subsidized transportation to cooling and warming centers.
- **Emergency Supplies:** Distribute emergency kits with water, food, blankets, and other essentials to vulnerable households.
- **Health Monitoring:** Implement health monitoring programs, including wellness checks and mobile health units.
- **Public Information Campaigns:** Conduct awareness campaigns on recognizing and preventing heat- and cold-related illnesses.

6. Communications Materials for Public Outreach

- **Pre-Event Preparedness Guides:** Pamphlets and online resources detailing how to prepare for heat waves and cold snaps.
- **Emergency Alerts:** Utilize local media, social media, and emergency alert systems to provide timely information.
- **Educational Workshops:** Conduct workshops on extreme temperature preparedness in community centers.
- **Language Accessibility:** Ensure materials are available in multiple languages spoken within the community.
- **Visual Aids:** Use infographics and visual aids to illustrate key safety tips and resources.

7. Evaluation Process for Success and Continuous Improvement

- **Regular Drills and Simulations:** Conduct annual drills and simulations to test the effectiveness of the plan and identify areas for improvement.

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Collect feedback from the community, volunteers, and partner organizations after each event.
- **Data Analysis:** Analyze data on health outcomes, resource utilization, and response times to assess the plan's impact.
- **Review Meetings:** Hold quarterly review meetings with stakeholders to discuss findings and update the plan as necessary.
- **Continuous Education:** Provide ongoing training for emergency management personnel and community volunteers.

By following this comprehensive plan, we aim to ensure the safety and well-being of our community during extreme temperature events, while continuously improving our strategies and preparedness measures.