



## **City of Phoenix**

### **RESPONSE PLAN FOR SUMMER HEAT**

Summer heat can be dangerous and pose health risks to individuals. The potential risks are not limited to Phoenix and require a regional response. Maricopa County will advise Phoenix and other cities upon notification by the National Weather Service of excess heat watches or warnings and coordinate response with the cities. The City of Phoenix Emergency Management Program will respond and support the Maricopa County Plan. The National Weather Service in partnership with Maricopa County will determine the “triggers” for Heat Emergencies which require an Emergency Management response.

The City of Phoenix will take the following actions to ensure the safety of the public and our employees:

#### **Community Partnerships**

Community agencies will provide day respite and additional shelter beds. The Human Services Campus Day Resource Center will provide services and respite for homeless individuals in the downtown area. The Phoenix Rescue Mission will provide day respite, meals and shelter at their 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue location. United Methodist Outreach Ministries will provide additional day and night shelter for women and families. Working with community partners, City staff will assist with the coordination and distribution of supplies to the Homeless Outreach Teams and shelter service providers.

#### **Faith-Based Partners**

City staff is providing training and information for faith-based volunteers. Twenty-six faith based organizations from throughout the metropolitan area have volunteered to provide heat assistance in three areas:

- Hydration Efforts – Helping to collect, store and distribute bottled water throughout the city of Phoenix.
- Respite Efforts – Providing or staffing a cool, safe place for people to escape from the heat to prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Wellness Checks – Ensuring that elderly and/or disabled people are using their home cooling systems or have access to a cool safe place to stay during times of extreme heat. Providing educational materials to help people recognize the signs of heat distress.

**Water Collection and Distribution**

St. Mary's Food Bank has agreed to serve as the water collection and distribution point during the summer months. Donations of water will be directed to the food bank. City staff will work with St. Mary's Food Bank to coordinate distribution efforts.

**Public Information Office** - Will work in partnership with Maricopa County to coordinate education and media response efforts. All City of Phoenix communication will be coordinated through PIO.

**Staff Training** - Will be provided throughout the city for city staff in positions with outside public contact and/or in positions that could be impacted by heat. These measures are taken to ensure the health and safety of the public and our employees.

**Human Services** – Will provide welfare checks on homebound elderly. During periods of extreme heat warnings, all Family Services and Senior Centers will provide respite and water to the public. Staff will coordinate our annual Summer Respite Program to collect items needed by the homeless including socks, T-shirts and sunscreen. Staff will also coordinate distribution efforts with community and faith based organizations.

**Police** – Will coordinate with PIO and provide water during extreme heat warnings.

**Fire** – Will implement internal heat policies and respond to heat emergencies.

**Other Departments** – Will serve in support roles, ensure that staff is trained and provide field staff with water for distribution in extreme heat emergencies.