

Heatwave Emergencies

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Aim

- The aim of a Red Cross heatwave response is to work with partner agencies to prevent death or adverse health outcomes by providing advice and support to people susceptible to heat exhaustion.



Objectives

- This aim is achieved through
 - Supporting members of the community more susceptible to heat exhaustion to prepare their households for heatwave
 - Providing information and advice during a warning stage regarding a potential heat wave
 - During a heatwave reaching out to vulnerable individuals to provide advice, support and maintaining a connection with people at risk
 - Providing general advice to the affected community on strategies to prevent heat exhaustion.

Preparedness

- Volunteer speakers and Emergency REDiPlan at community information sessions.
- Distribution of the appropriate Four Steps booklets to clients.
- Providing preparedness training to support agencies that work with the clients



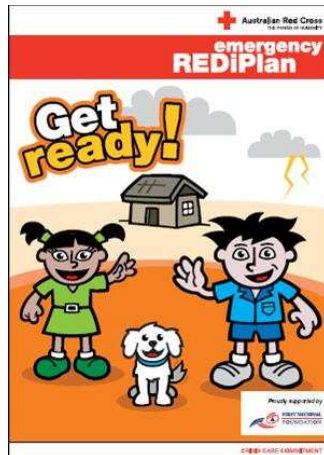
Preparedness

- REDiSupport volunteers make personal visits.
- During the warning period, and for those people very isolated and ill prepared, we could send out a personal support team to assist with preparation (ie shopping/medications/preparing the house etc).
- General health advice and preparedness messages.



Preparedness

- South Australian Government has purchased 50,000 copies of *Household Preparedness for Seniors* to distribute to their clients



Response

- *Physical outreach*
 - Where demand on home care services for physical assistance with preparation to shelter in place (ie additional shopping, drawing blinds etc) outweighs the capacity of a local agency or government to provide a service, Red Cross REDiSupport teams could provide additional assistance.



Response



Response

- *Shelter management*
 - Where shelters are opened to provide support for vulnerable people, Red Cross could provide additional volunteer support to assist with their management.
- *Public information*
 - Red Cross, as a provider of Health and Safety Training, is well placed to support government messaging around preventative health strategies to minimise the impact of heat stress.

Recovery

- **Recovery**
 - Provision of public information, particularly around personal support/grief
 - Advice of recovery strategies as required



Further information

- **Red Cross Emergency Services**
 - 1800 232 969
 - adent@redcross.org.au
- Emergency Services Coordinator in your DHS Region