

Heatwave Advice to Event Organisers

The following should be considered when planning for large scale public events and/or mass gatherings, and was written by East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Heat-health risk	Actions to consider
Increased exposure to heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary shaded areas at event locations (umbrellas, tents) • Reduce the need to queue (efficient check in, additional staffing, or staggered ticket entry) • Provide a water spray/mist area/spraying (showers, garden hose) • Make available a map of local public air-conditioned spaces where people can have respite from the heat (consider extending opening hours of these venues) • Divert strenuous activities for cooler days or cooler periods of the day and provide an alternative, less strenuous program for hot days
Communication barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare advice for tourists and distribute around hotels, money exchanges and transport hubs • Produce and distribute heat-health advice printed onto free fans or caps (can be used to fan/protect against sun whilst containing information on protecting against and recognising heat-related illnesses, and provide emergency phone number in case of identified heat related illness) • Inform your audience and/or your members about the health risks and possible preventive measures through digital screens/speakers/announcements
Reduced access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute water bottles or temporary water dispensers • Ensure an adequate supply of drinking water. On hot days it is advisable to provide free drinking water
Severe heat emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider moving date, location or cancel event in extreme heat alert (especially at a Level 4 alert) • Ensure adequate immediate relief for people in emergency and ensure their transport to the first aid/health unit

Medical needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember that people with asthma, heart disease and/or other additional chronic conditions are additionally health sensitive to ozone and/or heat• Keep in mind that alcohol and some (prescription) drugs can worsen effect of heat• Ensure adequately trained personnel who notify authorities as soon as there are incidences of heat illness observed
Food needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide water-rich foods such as salads, yogurt and ensure that food is kept cool to prevent contamination