Extreme Heat Tabletop Exercise
2024 NACHC Climate Resilience Learning Collaborative

This document is intended to accompany the Situation Manual (SitMan) developed as part of the 2024 NACHC Climate Resilience Learning Collaborative. A SitMan is a standard part of tabletop exercise (TTX) design and is used as the primary document for facilitation of an exercise.

All the highlighted text in the document should be updated to reflect the health center and the exercise details. The SitMan scenario and discussion questions should be adapted as necessary to meet the needs of the health center running the exercise.

Key considerations:

- Are all elements of the scenario relevant and realistic for your community? For example, if there is no mass transportation near you, delete the parts about bus service being suspended.
- Make sure that potential staffing absences is sufficient to stress the system. Adjust projected numbers as necessary.
- The sample high temperature may not be high enough to stress the system in some parts of the country. Adjust accordingly. See the NWS Heat Risk Prototype below for additional guidance.

For additional resources for the design, implementation, and evaluation of exercises, see the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program

Following the exercise, it is essential to conduct a debriefing and write an after-action report. The after -action report will help you update your plans and training. Consider using the Planning Guidance for Extreme Heat: Collective Strategies for Mitigating Risk developed by the 2024 Climate Resilience Learning Collaborative to inform your plan updates.

Design, execution, and evaluation of a TTX like this one can help meet regulatory requirements for emergency management exercises. For details on the standards presented in a crosswalk format, see the Emergency Preparedness/Emergency Management Requirements: Crosswalk of The Joint Commission (TJC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Standards for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

NWS HeatRisk Prototype

This new resource brings together forecasting with risk of heat-related impacts and is an excellent resource in helping to understand the potential impacts of extreme heat on health. This information can be used both in designing a tabletop exercise as well during planning and response. From the website:

> The NWS HeatRisk Prototype is a color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. HeatRisk takes into consideration:
>
> - How unusual the heat is for the time of the year
> - The duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures

- If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the CDC

This index is supplementary to official NWS heat products and is meant to provide risk guidance for those decision makers and heat-sensitive populations who need to take actions at levels that may be below current NWS heat product levels

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