



The Department of Corrections is committed to operating safe and humane facilities, especially during the current excessive heat wave. Each facility abides by the national standards provided by the American Correctional Association for recommended comfort zone temperatures in our prison living units, which vary by season. The suggested temperatures in the living units are maintained between 66 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer comfort zone, and between 61 to 73 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter comfort zone. In the event that the temperature exceeds the comfort zone for a prolonged period of time, alternate methods of heating and cooling will be put in place as a temporary measure to keep the unit within acceptable guidelines.

Staff receive heat exhaustion training annually. We have onsite medical staff who are aware and prepared to respond in cases of any medical emergency. All staff are on heightened alert for heat related emergencies and preventative measures, are in place to prevent such emergencies.

The following are some of the general efforts underway to mitigate the excessive impacts in our facilities; mitigation efforts will vary by facility due to each facility's unique layout, makeup, and needs.

- Staff are regularly communicating with incarcerated individuals to drink water.
- Ice water is available for everyone. Ice machines are working, and plans are in place to address if problems arise.
- Ice is being made and frozen at night while people sleep to keep up with the demand during the day.
- Cooling stations in many areas are established. Misting stations are available in the yards.
- Shorts and T-shirts allowed outside of unit.
- Incarcerated individuals will be allowed to wear shower shoes with no socks.
- Population will be allowed to wear wet towels to mitigate the heat.
- Extra surgical masks are available in case they need to be replaced from getting wet.
- Covering of windows will be allowed.
- Sunscreen has been purchased and made available to individuals wanting to access the yard.
- Extra movement established for recreation for population to leave yard early.
- All staff are on heightened alert for heat related emergencies.
- Medical staff are looking at other locations within each facility where medically ill patients can be housed if temperatures cannot be controlled in the infirmary.
- If an incarcerated individual appears to be experiencing signs of heat exhaustion, or they request to return inside, can allow them to do so.
- Staff continue to monitor the population closely for signs of heat exhaustion and medical issues.