

Hot Weather Air Conditioning Failure

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POLICY

The home shall have a plan in place to protect residents and workers during hot weather conditions if the air conditioning system fails. The home shall make every reasonable effort to protect residents and workers from hot weather-related illnesses.

Procedure

- Resources in Prevention and Management of Hot weather-related illness in Long Term Care Facilities Guidelines 1990.
- Education; the administrator shall ensure all staff receive education regarding heat-related illnesses. This should be in conjunction with the education received to care for residents during hot weather.
- Monitor environment; the administrator shall designate a person or persons to monitor the environment. This person or persons will have the authority to implement the hot weather policy at their discretion.
- Additional fluids; the administrator or designate will ensure that additional fluids are available for staff during such periods.
- Availability of more frequent breaks; the supervisor will ensure that staff have more frequent breaks without compromising the care given to residents. Supervisors shall determine what work task during hot weather conditions may be deferred to a later time.
- Dress Code; the administrator shall publish and post the home's dress code for hot weather conditions.
- Portable fans; portable fans shall be placed throughout the home. Priority will be given to the laundry and kitchen areas due to the additional heat generated from equipment usage. Resident families are encouraged to bring in fans for their loved ones but must be inspected by maintenance for safety prior to being placed in service.
- Alter work procedures; the supervisors shall alter work procedures, where possible as to reduce the possibility of hot weather-related illnesses. Examples may include;
 - **Dietary** - light lunches such as salads, cold meats, etc., shall be implemented with a decreased use of the ovens or other cooking appliances. The FSNM shall meet with the residents' council to explain the menu changes.
 - **Nursing** - bed baths for residents who are uncomfortable in the heat will become part of the bedtime and afternoon care. A tepid bath will do much to add to the comfort level of the residents.
 - Residents may be moved to the dining rooms and lounges where a separate air conditioning system is in place apart from the roof top units supplying the corridors.
 - **The Registered Staff** shall assess the condition of all residents for signs of dehydration. The Physicians and families shall be notified.

- **Extra fluids** such as fruit drinks, popsicles, water, and other cold beverages shall be offered to all residents and ensure they have some intake.
- **More frequent rest periods** for the residents or even naps are encouraged during hot weather conditions.
- **Residents and staff** shall avoid going outside during humid hot weather alerts.
- **The nursing and dietary manuals** will have a more comprehensive procedure to deal with hot weather conditions and hot weather-related illnesses.

Management Authorization <i>Shane Overidge</i>		Effective Date: December 14, 2009	
<i>Dahlia Burt-Gerrans</i> Dahlia Burt-Gerrans Internal Approval	Administrator Title	Revised Date: February 16, 2018	
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