

## HEAT WAVE ADVISORY

### Policy & Procedure

#### Policy:

This emergency policy is intended to assist the facility in meeting its responsibility to provide a comfortable environment for our residents, employees and visitors.

#### Procedure:

The management team will provide appropriate training for employees emphasizing the impact extreme heat has on the frail elderly and the importance of preventing heat related illness/death.

1. The general orientation process includes training on the Heat Wave Advisory policy.
2. Training will include identifying the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion.
3. During a heat wave advisory, all window coverings will be closed during daylight hours.
4. Fans will be placed strategically in the corridors and resident rooms to assist in circulating air.
5. All available air conditioning units will be used and relocated as necessary to provide optimal cooling effects for the largest number of residents.
6. Residents will be encouraged and assisted in dressing in light weight, short sleeved or sleeveless clothing.
7. Hydration rounds will be increased to every hour and each resident will be provided with a form of fluid orally, enterally or parenterally unless contraindicated by the resident's condition.
8. Showers and/or sponge baths will be given to residents exhibiting signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion.
9. Residents will be encouraged to remain out of direct sunlight, preferably indoors.
10. Residents will be encouraged to engage in frequent rest breaks.
11. Employees will be provided with cool, refreshing beverages and snacks and will be encouraged to take frequent rest periods when relief is available.
12. Additional precautions may be initiated by the Administrator or designee as deemed necessary to ensure ongoing safety up to and including evacuation of the building.

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*This policy and procedure is not intended to replace the informed judgment of individual physicians, nurses or other clinicians nor is it intended as a statement of prevailing community standards or minimum standards of practice. It is a suggested method and technique for achieving optimal health care, not a minimum standard below which residents necessarily would be placed at risk.*

**HEAT WAVE ADVISORY**

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I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the requirements outlined in this policy and procedure.

Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

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