



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 25, 2013

***** NEWS ALERT *****

**DHS UTILIZES 'CODE RED' PROCEDURE TO
PROTECT STREET HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS DURING HIGH TEMPERATURES**

Policy in Effect When Heat Index reaches 90 Degrees

This summer, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will again be utilizing its Code Red procedure to protect individuals who are living unsheltered during times of intense heat. Employed when the heat index reaches 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, Code Red calls for increased street outreach efforts, allowing teams to check on individuals more frequently and assess them for signs of medical danger. In addition, when Code Red is in effect, New Yorkers experiencing homelessness may walk into any shelter or cooling center Citywide and have access to drop-in centers 24-hours per day.

If someone on the street looks as though they may be in need of assistance, DHS encourages all New Yorkers to call 311, so that an outreach team may be dispatched to check on the individual. Additionally, if any individual appears to be suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke, New Yorkers should immediately dial 911.

Symptoms of heat-related illness include:

Heat Exhaustion:

- Heavy sweating, with skin that may be cool, pale and clammy;
- Weak and/or rapid pulse;
- Fainting or dizziness, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion, normal body temperature and headaches are possible.

Heat Stroke:

- High body temperature (104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher);
- No sweating, hot, red and dry skin;
- Rapid pulse and rapid, shallow breathing;
- Possible unconsciousness, extreme confusion, irrational behavior, and seizures.

-30-

Contact: Heather Janik, Barbara Brancaccio (212) 361-7973