



NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
Office of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OEM OFFERS TIPS TO HELP NEW YORKERS BEAT THE HEAT

With warm temperatures and humidity forecast through the weekend, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urges New Yorkers to take appropriate steps to stay cool. People planning to spend time outdoors should be mindful of the heat and heed the following tips to stay safe:

- ☐ If possible, stay out of the sun. When in the sun, wear sunscreen (at least SPF 15) and a hat to protect your face and head. Dress in lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
- ☐ Drink fluids – particularly water – even if you do not feel thirsty. Your body needs water to keep cool. Avoid beverages containing alcohol or caffeine.
- ☐ Avoid strenuous activity, especially during the sun's peak hours – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ☐ Cool down with repeated cool baths or showers.
- ☐ Never leave children, seniors, or pets in a parked car during periods of intense summer heat.
- ☐ Make a special effort to check on your neighbors, especially seniors and people with special needs.
- ☐ Report open fire hydrants by calling **311 (TTY: 212-504-4115)**.
- ☐ Recognize the symptoms of heat-related illnesses including heat exhaustion and heat stroke:
 - **Heat exhaustion:** Symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, headache, weak pulse, dizziness, exhaustion, fainting, nausea or vomiting, and cold, clammy skin. Body temperature will seem normal.
 - **Heat Stroke:** Symptoms include flushed, hot, dry skin, weak or rapid pulse, shallow breathing, lack of sweating, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and unconsciousness. Body temperature will be elevated, and victim should receive immediate medical attention.



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Energy Conservation and Power Outages

During periods of hot and humid weather, regional electricity use rises. OEM urges residents to conserve energy to help prevent power disruptions.

- ☐ Set your air conditioner thermostat no lower than 78 degrees.
- ☐ Only use the air conditioner when you are home. If you want to cool your home before you return, set a timer to have it switch on no more than a half-hour before you arrive.
- ☐ Turn non-essential appliances off.
- ☐ Only use appliances that have heavy electrical loads early in the morning or very late at night

Power outages are more likely to occur during warm weather, when utility usage is at its peak. If you lose power:

- ☐ First, check to see if a fuse is blown or a circuit breaker has been tripped.
- ☐ Call your power provider to report the outage.
- ☐ Disconnect or turn off all appliances that will go on automatically when service is restored. If several appliances start up at once, they may overload electrical circuits.
- ☐ To prevent food spoilage, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. Move milk, cheese, meats, and other perishables into the freezer compartment. If the freezer is only partially full, keep all items close together and stacked on top of each other.
- ☐ Keep windows in your residence OPEN for proper ventilation.

Fire Hydrants and Spray Caps

Opening fire hydrants without spray caps is wasteful and dangerous. Illegally opened hydrants can lower water pressure, which can cause problems at hospitals and other medical facilities and hinder fire-fighting by reducing the flow of water to hoses and pumps. Children can also be at serious risk, because the powerful force of an open hydrant without a spray cap can push them into oncoming traffic. Call **311** to report an open hydrant.



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Hydrants can be opened **legally** if equipped with a City-approved spray cap. One illegally opened hydrant wastes up to 1,000 gallons of water per minute, while a hydrant with a spray cap only puts out around 25 gallons per minute. Spray caps can be obtained by an adult 18 or over, free of charge, at local firehouses.

Learn more about how to stay cool all summer long with OEM's **Ready New York: Beat the Heat** guide. For more information about heat-related hazards and the Ready New York campaign, visit **NYC.gov/oem** or call **311**.

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