

**July 8, 2019**

**TO: ALL JNCS EMPLOYEES**

**SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR EXTREME HEAT, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS AND WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES**

### **Heat Preparedness**

Summer months in California can bring high temperatures posing a substantial risk to vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, those with chronic diseases or disabilities. Warning signs of heat-related illness include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, headache and nausea. Vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness and dizziness can also be indications of heat-related illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following [tips to stay safe during periods of excessive heat](#):

- Never leave infants, children, dependent adults, the elderly or pets in a parked car. It can take as little as 10 minutes for the temperature inside a car to rise to levels that can kill.
- Drink plenty of water or juice, even if not thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.
- Stay in an air-conditioned area as much as possible. California's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) provides information on [cooling center locations](#) open during periods of hot weather. Consider also visiting a public place with air conditioning, such as a shopping mall or library.
- Limit outdoor activity to when it is coolest, for example during morning and evening hours.

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to cover the face and neck, wear light weight and loose-fitting clothing to keep cool and to protect skin from the sun.
- Monitor those on medications. Many medications increase the likelihood of dehydration.
- To prevent overheating, use cool compresses, misting, showers and baths. Seek medical attention if the following symptoms are observed: rapid, strong pulse, feeling delirious or a body temperature above 102 degrees.
- Check the local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips.

### **Public Safety Power Shutoffs**

The 2018 wildfire season was the deadliest and most destructive on record. California had over 8,500 wildfires resulting in a devastating loss of lives and property. As a result, California energy companies may initiate public safety power shutoffs, as a preemptive firefighting strategy, in locations experiencing critical weather such as high winds and dry conditions. However, because energy systems rely on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties and regions, the power may be shut off in areas not experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions.

If a public safety power shutoff is needed, expect the following:

- Early Warning Notification – The energy company will aim to send customer alerts before shutting off power.
- Ongoing Updates – The energy company will provide ongoing updates through social media, local news outlets and their website.
- Safety Inspections – After extreme weather has passed, the energy company will inspect the lines in affected areas before power is safely restored.
- Power Restoration – Power outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. **In a worst-case scenario, power could be off for up to five days to allow time to check the system for safety and restart it.**

In anticipation of public safety power shutoffs, CCLD reminds providers to provide their energy company with up-to-date contact information to ensure prompt notification when electricity must be turned off for public safety.

Please visit [The Power of Being Prepared](#) to learn more about public safety power shutoffs and how to sign up for alerts from your specific utility company.

**Note:** Downed power lines may be energized and extremely dangerous. Do not touch or try to move them, keep people and animals away, leave the area immediately and call 911.

### **Wildfire Emergencies**

Many different factors led to the 2018 California wildfire season becoming so destructive including increased natural fuel due to years of drought and global warming. California may no longer have a wildfire “season” but rather a year-round risk of wildfires. Being prepared has never been more important. To prepare for wildfire emergencies, providers should:

- Create a [Wildfire Action Plan](#) including identifying several alternative escape routes from the facility and community.
- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are always in place and working.
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated on the fire.
- Create a defensible space around the facility by trimming trees and other vegetation, clearing away dead branches, wood piles, and vegetation from the roof, patio furniture, and play equipment, and keep rain gutters free of debris.

**Note:** During wildfire emergencies cell phone service may not be available.

### **Emergency Plan Updates, Reporting Requirements and CCLD Assistance**

CCLD reminds providers to review their facility’s emergency/disaster plan to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

Contact the local licensing office for questions or other assistance:

- [CCLD Child Care Regional Offices](#)
- [CCLD Children's Residential Regional Offices](#)
- [CCLD Adult and Senior Care Regional Offices](#)

**Note:** Incidents/occurrences such as injuries, illnesses or deaths related to the topics in this PIN shall be reported to the local licensing office. Providers are encouraged to review their facility's applicable reporting requirements.

### **Additional Resources**

The following additional links are resources to assist providers in being prepared for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs and wildfire emergencies:

- California Department of Public Health: [Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#)
- National Weather Service: [Watches, Warnings or Advisories for California](#)
- [Cal OES](#): for the latest news on emergencies.

If you have any questions regarding this PIN, please contact your local CCLD Regional office.