



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: CLW/CLPA/WCAS/Pub

GENEVA, 22 July 2015

Subject: Joint Publication of WMO and WHO: *Heatwaves and Health: Guidance on Warning-System Development* (WMO-No. 1142)

Action required: For information and appropriate action, as necessary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Extreme heat events have long threatened public health, and many countries have suffered sharp increases in death rates during heat waves. Climate change projections indicate that extreme heat events will be more frequent and intense in the coming decades. It has been recognized that heat-related risks might be reduced through systematic development of heat-health early warning systems, alerting decision-makers and the general public on the impending dangerous hot spells. Considering the need for close coordination between climate and health services in this regard, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), took the initiative to jointly develop guidance on such early warning systems, with the advice and leadership of scientists from around the world in the fields of weather, climate and health and related disciplines, in particular members and experts of the Commission for Climatology (CCI) and the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS). This is also a fine example of the longstanding collaboration between WMO and WHO on climate and health issues, which has further strengthened under the aegis of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the creation of the Climate and Health Joint Office.

I am pleased to inform you that the joint WMO/WHO publication on *Heatwaves and Health: Guidance on Warning-System Development* (WMO-No. 1142) has been issued recently, and it is available (initially in English) in the WMO e-library. A limited number of hard copies of the publication are also available, and can be provided on request.

We expect that the aforementioned guidance on Heat-Health Warning System will enable NMHSs and health-sector agencies to provide effective weather and climate services and save lives in vulnerable communities around the world. I, therefore, kindly request your assistance to disseminate the guidance among the concerned experts and relevant national partners, and encourage implementing such a system in your country.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6860)

cc: Presidents of CCI and CBS (for information)

I shall be keenly interested in your feedback on the above guidance and the development of Heat-Health Warning System in your country. The Secretariat will be pleased to assist you in seeking more detailed information, and also facilitate interaction with the relevant international experts. For this purpose, you may contact Dr Rupa Kumar Kolli (RKolli@wmo.int), Chief, World Climate Applications & Services Division and Dr Joy Shumake-Guillemot (jshumake-guillemot@wmo.int), Project Officer, Climate and Health Joint Office.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued cooperation and support to WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General