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Village urges residents to take precautions during extreme heat

Two cooling centers open for residents, transportation available

ELMWOOD PARK – Residents are urged to take extra precautions during this week’s heat wave in the Chicago area. Temperatures could exceed 100 degrees Thursday, with the heat index (which combines air temperature with relative humidity) even higher. The National Weather Service has posted a heat advisory from noon through 8 p.m. Thursday.

“We’re concerned that everyone stays cool and comfortable during this period,” Village President Pete Silvestri said. “We need neighbors to look out for each other, especially the elderly who may need some extra assistance.”

The Village has two cooling centers that are open to the public. The primary cooling center is at 2 Conti Parkway, the Parks and Recreation Center, which is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The secondary center is the Public Safety building at 7420 Fullerton Avenue, which is available 24 hours. Anyone with special needs or needing transportation is encouraged to call Village Hall at [708-452-7300](tel:708-452-7300).

“We want to make sure everyone acts responsibly,” Village Manager Paul Volpe said. “Avoid excessive exercise and long periods of time outdoors if at all possible. If you have an emergency, seek medical treatment or call 911.”

Village Health Director Janet Slusarz, RN, emphasized the need for people to stay hydrated. “Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine. Individuals with respiratory problems should also take it easy.”

Parents need to make sure small children are properly cared for. Pet owners also need to take precautions. Officials say temperatures inside of a car can reach 120 degrees in just a few minutes. Even partially opened windows may not be enough to protect an animal from heatstroke.

While Thursday will produce the most intense heat, temperatures are expected to remain in the 90s past the 4th of July holiday, meaning well-being checks should be conducted periodically during the next week to 10 days.

Elmwood Park is located approximately 12 miles from the City of Chicago. The Village is primarily a residential community of single-family homes, newer condominiums and town homes, but also includes several business districts and a small light industrial area.