Heat Wave or Extreme Heat

• Sunsmart • Hydrate • Informed



A heat wave is often marked by unusually hot weather over a region for at least two consecutive days during the hottest period of the year and that is above the normal conditions for that time of the year.

Before a heat wave

- Stay informed about upcoming heat conditions and plan your outdoor activities.
- Learn about things you can do to keep safe during a heat wave or extreme heat (see below).

During a heat wave

- Check for updates and follow information from the emergency services.
- ✓ Follow guidance from UC Security and emergency services.
- ✓ Sunsmart: SLIP, SLOP, SLAP and WRAP
 - SLIP on clothing, covering skin as much possible (eg, long-sleeve t-shirt).
 - SLOP on plenty of broad-spectrum sunscreen.
 - SLAP on a hat with a wide brim or a hat that covers the ears and neck.
 - WRAP on sunglasses.

Stay hydrated

- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. Avoid sugary or alcoholic drinks because they encourage more fluid loss.
- ✓ Where possible, have a good supply of water close to your work area.

Stay cool

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, lightcoloured clothing.
- ✓ Go to areas with air conditioning.
- Where possible, draw blinds and curtains to limit morning or afternoon sun.

Stay inside

Limit your outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.

If you need to work outdoors

- ✓ If possible, schedule outside tasks earlier or later in the day when the weather is cooler.
- ✓ Take frequent breaks.
- Rest often in areas with shade, so your body has a chance to recover.

How to recognise and help with a heat-related illness

During a heat wave, people are susceptible to heat-related conditions. Anyone can develop heat-related illnesses. Act fast if you notice someone with symptoms. Below are some of the major heat-related illnesses.

Heat cramps	Heat exhaustion	Heat stroke
Muscle spasms caused by a large loss of salt and water in the body.	The body's response to excessive loss of water and salt, usually through excessive sweating.	This is a serious heat- related illness when the body can no longer control its temperature.
Look for: • Heavy sweating with muscle pain or spasms	Look for: Heavy sweating Cold, pale and clammy skin Fast, weak pulse Nausea or vomiting Muscle cramps Tiredness or weakness Dizziness, headache, passing out	Look for: High body temperature Hot, red, dry or damp skin Fast, strong pulse Headache, dizziness Nausea, confusion, passing out
How to help: Move to a cool place Drink water or a sports drink Get medical help right away if: cramps last longer than 1 hour the person affected has a heart problem	How to help: Move to a cool place Loosen tight clothing Cool the body using wet cloths, misting, fanning or a cool bath Sip water slowly Get medical help right away if: vomiting occurs symptoms last longer than 1 hour or get worse confusion develops	How to help: DIAL 111 ask for "AMBULANCE" DIAL UC Security 0800 823 637 to tell them emergency services have been called Give details of location and any assistance required Move to a cool place Cool the body using wet cloths, misting, fanning or a cool bath DO NOT give the person anything to drink

After a heat wave

- ✓ Take care of yourself. It's normal to have bad feelings, stress or anxiety
 after a heat wave.
- ✓ Eat healthy food and get enough sleep, to help you deal with stress.
- ✓ Contact UC student/staff services for more support.