

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Baltimore City Code Red Heat Alert**

**Baltimore, MD** (June 27, 2008) – Baltimore City is announcing the 2008 Code Red Heat Alert initiative. Baltimore City's Code Red Heat Alert activation establishes a coordinated approach to providing cooling relief to vulnerable populations in Baltimore City during a heat crisis.

Today, because of predicted high temperatures and potential danger according to the Baltimore Heat Watch Warning System, the Health Commissioner is declaring a Code Red Heat Alert. Baltimore City is opening emergency cooling centers today. Each center will have cool air, water, and ice available.

Six centers will be operated by the Housing Department. These centers will open at 9:00 am:

- Northern Community Action Center -- 5225 York Road
- Southern Community Action Center -- 606 Cherry Hill Road (inside the shopping center 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- Northwest Community Action Center -- 3314 Ayrdale Avenue
- Western Community Action Center -- 1133 Pennsylvania Avenue
- Southeastern Community Action Center -- 3411 Bank Street

The Commission on Aging and Retirement Education will operate four of the centers. These centers will open at 9:00 am:

- Waxter Center -- 1000 Cathedral Street
- Oliver Center -- 1700 Gay Street
- Sandtown-Winchester Center -- 1601 Baker Street
- Hatton Center -- 2825 Fait Avenue

In addition, residents can go to Recreation and Parks Centers throughout the city for relief from the heat.

The Baltimore City Health Department recommends that city residents:

- Drink plenty of water or juice
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine

- Wipe skin with cool water as needed
- Reduce outside activities
- Wear light weight and light-colored clothing
- Stay inside during the hottest time of day
- Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke:
  - Confusion
  - Nausea
  - Light-headedness
  - High body temperature with cool and clammy skin
    - Seek medical help immediately if any of these symptoms occur
    - Seek relief from the heat in air-conditioned locations
    - Check on older, sick, or frail people in your community who may need help responding to the heat

City residents who want information on the cooling centers can call 311. Any city resident experiencing the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke should call 911.

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