



# Heatwave Advice and Mass Gatherings

The table below provides a quick heat-health checklist to support planning for large scale public events (mass gatherings). This should be used in conjunction with other more detailed planning advice (e.g. Health and Safety Executive 'Events Safety Guide'). This advice guide may be shared with Chairs of Safety Advisory Groups for distribution to event organisers during a heat wave period.

<b>Heat-health risk</b>	<b>Actions to consider</b>
<b>Increased exposure to heat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide temporary shaded areas at event locations (umbrellas, tent)</li><li>● Reduce the need to queue (efficient check in, additional staffing, or staggered ticket entry)</li><li>● Provide a water spray/mist area/spraying (showers, garden hose)</li><li>● Make available a map of local public air-conditioned spaces where people can have respite from the heat (consider extending opening hours of these venues)</li><li>● Divert strenuous activities for cooler days or cooler periods of the day and provide an alternative, less strenuous program for hot days</li></ul>
<b>Communication barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prepare advice for tourists and distribute around hotels, money exchanges and transport hubs</li><li>● Produce and distribute heat-health advice printed onto free fans or caps (can be used to fan/protect against sun whilst containing information on protecting against and recognising heat-related illnesses, and provide emergency phone number in case of identified heat related illness)</li><li>● Inform your audience and/or your members about the health risks and possible preventive measures through digital screens, speakers, announcements</li></ul>
<b>Reduced access to water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Distribute water bottles or temporary water dispensers</li><li>● Ensure an adequate supply of drinking water</li><li>● On hot days it is advisable to provide free drinking water</li></ul>





<b>Heat-health risk</b>	<b>Actions to consider</b>
<b>Severe heat emergency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Consider moving the date, location or cancel an event during an extreme heat alert (especially at a Level 4 alert)</li><li>● Ensure adequate immediate relief for people in emergency and ensure their transport to the first aid/ health unit</li></ul>
<b>Medical needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Remember that people with asthma, heart disease and/ or other additional chronic conditions are additionally health sensitive to ozone and/or heat</li><li>● Keep in mind that alcohol and some (prescription) drugs can worsen the effect of heat</li><li>● Ensure that there are adequately trained personnel who can notify authorities as soon as there are incidences of heat illness are observed</li></ul>
<b>Food needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide water-rich foods such as salads and yogurt and ensure that food is kept cool to prevent contamination</li></ul>
<b>Ramadan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fasting takes place from sunrise to sunset during this period for 30 days and starts in May or June</li></ul>
<b>Wildfires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Wildfires during a heatwave pose a number of risks to health and can contribute to local and regional air pollution.</li><li>● Information on the health aspect of wildfires is available from the PHE website.</li></ul>