



AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

CREATING AN EXTREME HEAT COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSE PLAN

Lincoln County, Wisconsin

THE PROBLEM

According to their [County Environmental Health Profile](#), Lincoln County has nearly 1.5 times more heat-related emergency room visits than the Wisconsin average. While several agencies in Lincoln County respond to extreme heat events, they had never formally met to coordinate a communication and response plan. Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) applied for and received funding and technical assistance from the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program to create a plan of action.

WHAT LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DID

LCHD staff invited seven agencies, such as local fire departments, social service organizations, and emergency management professionals, to participate in the planning process. Together, they formed a plan that emphasizes messaging and coordinated efforts prior to, during, and following an extreme heat event. The plan outlines roles and responsibilities of 14 key agencies and provides tools and resources, such as a list of cooling centers and press release templates, to assist with internal and external communication.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

The plan will help reduce duplication of efforts, lead to a more organized effort, and ensure response teams are using consistent messaging. With stronger relationships and a plan in place, Lincoln County Health Department and their partners are more equipped to respond to an extreme heat event efficiently and effectively.



Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying, 'The best way to predict the future is to create it.' The Lincoln County Extreme Heat Communication Plan has done just that, creating the healthy future for those who are impacted by the extreme heat.

DAVE SAVONE
Fire Chief
Merrill Fire Department

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht | SEPTEMBER 2016 | dhstracking@wi.gov
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-01579a (rev. 09/2017)
This project funded by the Tracking team's *Taking Action with Data* program.

