



AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

ADDING A HEAT RESPONSE PLAN TEMPLATE TO AN EXTREME HEAT TOOLKIT

THE PROBLEM

The Wisconsin Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (WI BRACE) Program developed an extreme heat toolkit to provide preparedness information for local health departments and emergency management agencies. While the toolkit includes background information, practical guidance, strategies, media releases, and talking points related to extreme heat events, it did not include guidance or examples for the creation of a heat response plan. The Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Tracking) worked with Lincoln County Health Department to incorporate an example of a heat response plan in the WI BRACE heat toolkit.

WHAT WE DID

With support and technical assistance from Tracking staff, Lincoln County Health Department staff created a heat response plan to outline the roles and responsibilities of local agencies during extreme heat events. Lincoln County Health Department, the Tracking Program, and WI BRACE staff worked together to include this example of a heat plan as a guide in the WI BRACE heat toolkit. The plan includes extreme heat event definitions, crisis communication goals, messaging for vulnerable populations, triggers for response, and communication and response roles.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

This new guide in the extreme heat toolkit will allow Wisconsin communities to use Lincoln County's heat response plan as a template for creating their own plan. Heat response plans help reduce response time when extreme heat events are imminent. Using the Lincoln County example, a community can create their own plan and be coordinated and better prepared to respond to future extreme heat events.



A response plan promotes communication, coordination, and accountability among partners during events that require a timely response.

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