

NOUS41 KWBC 271618
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 17-18
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1218 PM EDT Thu Apr 27 2017

TO: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Change of Heat Advisory Thresholds for New England: Effective Immediately

Effective immediately, five NWS offices (Caribou, ME; Gray, ME; Burlington, VT; Taunton, MA and Upton, NY), in collaboration with the Northeast Regional Heat Collaborative, have lowered Heat Advisory criteria for all of New England for the coming summer season.

Studies and research conducted by the collaborative show that emergency department visits and deaths from heat increase significantly on days when the heat index reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Thus, the old threshold of 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more consecutive hours has been lowered to 95-99 degrees Fahrenheit occurring for two or more consecutive days, or any duration of heat index 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Excessive Heat Warning criteria (heat index 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for two or more hours) remains unchanged.

It is expected that this change will alert people sooner to impending heat threats and if acted upon, reduce the number of emergency department visits.

No communication changes are required to continue to receive heat advisory/warning products. Only the triggering threshold for heat advisories has been changed.

If you have questions, please contact:

Rick Watling
NWS Eastern Region Headquarters
Bohemia, NY
richard.watling@noaa.gov
631-244-0123

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

NNNN