



Preparation of Protocol for Extreme Heat wave Events

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Background

The escalating climate crisis, marked by frequent and severe climatic changes in recent decades, is now the biggest threat to the earth and to humanity. Given its geographical location, the State of Israel faces heightened susceptibility to the ramifications of this crisis. One of the main risks is the emergence of prolonged heat waves, characterized by an extended period of unusually hot weather relative to the norm in the same place and in the same season, manifested in high temperatures during both day and night and often accompanied by high humidity. In Israel, heat waves occur mainly in the summer, but in recent years more and more heat waves develop in spring and autumn. The impacts are manifold, ranging from effects on lifestyle and health hazards such as dehydration, heatstroke, and heart and blood diseases, to infrastructure vulnerabilities like power outages, damage to cooling systems, formation of cracks, and the breaking and melting of pipes. Furthermore, essential services, including healthcare, transportation, and utilities, may face disruptions. These effects can manifest locally or nationally, with both short and long-term consequences. Consequently, proactive preparation measures are imperative, necessitating specific actions before and during heat waves at personal, local, and national levels.

Purpose

To develop a comprehensive procedure for heat wave readiness, providing a structured framework for management, operations, and coordination at the national federations level. This protocol aims to mitigate the adverse effects of heat waves on federation activities, athletes, and fans, thereby minimizing disruptions to training regimens, competitions, and events. Key objectives include:

1. Identifying and mapping risks in advance.
2. Implementing risk management strategies before and during heat waves.
3. Pooling resources and fostering collaboration among relevant stakeholders.
4. Formulating designated response plans to address risks before and during heat waves.

Steps in Procedure Preparation

1. Designation of a supervisor within the national federation to oversee the integration and implementation of the preparation procedure.
2. Appointment of representatives within each federation.
3. Development of a 'traffic light' system to signal the activation of heat procedures, event conclusion announcements, and cancellation or postponement of training sessions and sports events.
4. Conducting a comprehensive survey to identify threats faced by national federations, sports clubs, athletes, and fans. Emphasis should be placed on assessing risks to training and competitions, while considering health, infrastructure, and services aspects. It is crucial to involve all relevant stakeholders, including members from national federations and sports clubs, as well as athletes' representatives.
5. Identification and mapping of external parties requiring communication, such as meteorological services, the National Emergency Authority, the Home Front Command, and rescue services, along with designated points of contact.
6. Development of action plans encompassing operational aspects, such as facility and infrastructure protection, roofing and cooling system operations, schedule adjustments, and education and outreach initiatives. This includes constructing concise education programs on the climate crisis and heat waves, along with immediate dissemination of informational materials to athletes and fans as needed.

Partners

Collaborating organizations include the Olympic Committee of Israel, sports centers, sports clubs, government ministries, local authorities, and emergency and rescue services.

Auxiliary Materials

Reference to an existing municipal preparation procedure for extreme heat events - Beer Sheva Municipality.