

Volume 4, Issue 8

August 2014

A FOCUS ON HEAT EMERGENCIES HEALTHY TIPS TO STAY COOL IN EXTREMELY HOT WEATHER

By Concentra Urgent Care



Heat emergencies fall into three categories of increasing severity:

Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heatstroke.

Heat illnesses are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather. Children, elderly, and obese people have a higher risk of developing heat illness. People taking certain medications or drinking alcohol also have a higher risk. However, even a top athlete in superb condition can succumb to heat illness if he or she ignores the warning signs.

If the problem isn't addressed, heat cramps (caused by loss of salt from heavy sweating) can lead to heat exhaustion (caused by dehydration), which can progress to heatstroke. Heatstroke, the most serious of the three, can cause shock, brain damage, organ failure, and even death.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

- Heat Cramps
- Sweating
- Pain in arms, legs, and abdomen
- Heat Exhaustion
- Moist, pale skin
- Fatigue and fainting
- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Headache and confusion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid pulse and breathing

Heat Stroke

- No sweating
- Dry, hot, red skin
- Confusion and loss of consciousness
- Rapid pulse
- Temperature over 103° F
- Seizures

CAUSES:

The following are common causes of heat emergencies:

- High temperatures or humidity
- Dehydration
- Prolonged or excessive exercise
- Excess clothing
- Alcohol use

(Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Round Rock Police (Non Emergency)	512-218-5515
Georgetown Police (Non Emergency)	
Travis County Animal Control	
Round Rock Animal Control	
Georgetown Animal Control	512-930-3592

SCHOOLS

Round Rock ISD	
Teravista Elementary School	
Hopewell Middle School	
Stony Point High School	
Georgetown ISD	
Carver Elementary School	
Pickett Elementary School	
Tippit Middle School	
Georgetown High School	

UTILITIES

Atmos Energy	1-888-286-6700
TXU Energy	
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-7928
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	
Repairs	512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

City of Round Rock	512-218-5400
Round Rock Community Library	512-218-7000
Round Rock Parks and Recreation	512-218-5540
City of Georgetown	512-930-3652
Georgetown Public Library	
Georgetown Municipal Airport	512-930-3666
Georgetown Parks and Recreation	512-930-3595
Teravista Golf and Ranch House	512-651-9850
Teravista Residents Club	512-310-7421

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Article Submissions	teravista@peelinc.com
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THE VOICE

Heat Emergencies (Continued from Cover)

• Medications, such as diuretics, neuroleptics, phenothiazines, and anticholinergics

• Cardiovascular disease

What to do in heat emergencies... FIRST AID

1. Have the person lie down in a cool place. Elevate the person's feet about 12 inches.

2. Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to the person's skin and use a fan to lower body temperature. Place cold compresses on the person's neck, groin, and armpits.

3. If the person is alert, give cool water or sports beverages. It's advisable to drink slowly and steadily, particularly if they are experiencing nausea.

4. For muscle cramps, give beverages as above, and massage and stretch affected muscles gently, but firmly, until they relax.

5. If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails, and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and continue cooling procedures, as described above.

DO NOT:

• DO NOT underestimate the seriousness of heat illness, especially if the person is a child, elderly, or injured.

• DO NOT give the person medications that are used to treat fever (such as aspirin or acetaminophen). They will not help,

and they may be harmful.

• DO NOT give the person salt tablets.

• DO NOT give the person liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. They will interfere with the body's ability to control its internal temperature.

• DO NOT use alcohol rubs on the person's skin.

• DO NOT give the person anything by mouth (not even salted drinks) if the person is vomiting or unconscious.

PREVENTION:

• Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in hot weather.

• Rest regularly in a cool area; seek shade when possible.

• Avoid strenuous physical activity in hot or humid conditions.

• Drink plenty of fluids every day. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity.

• Be especially careful to avoid overheating if you are taking drugs that impair heat regulation, or if you are overweight or elderly.

• Be careful of hot cars in the summer. Allow the car to cool off before getting in.

• Avoid heavy meals and hot foods.

For more information on how to cope with the heat, ask your Concentra health professional, or visit the CDC's Web site at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/

References

Auerbach PS. Wilderness Medicine. 4th ed. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby; 2001:240-316.

DeLee JC, Drez Jr. D, Miller MD, eds. DeLee and Drez's Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Saunders; 2003:763.

Tadah! Can you believe this?

Your local Austin Music Teachers Association was just nominated the best in the country!

The Music Teachers National Association just awarded your local association as being the 2014 State Affiliate of the Year or the best in our country! Why? Because of "programming for students" which includes 20 events and "community outreach" such as Youth Music Ambassadors which means the most opportunities for your child!

Also, our Dr. Martha Hilley right here in Austin at the University of Texas, was selected as the Teacher of the Year for Music Teachers National Association. We here in Austin nominated her for that award and then she was selected as that first at the state level and then nationally! Dr. Hilley's teaching sparkles with a fountain of electrically inspiring ideas. She also is a writer and deeply involved on a statewide level with the governing of our colleges. Her picture and caption supporting President Powers was on page 2 of the 7/13 Sunday Austin American Statesman.

In addition Dr. Sophia Gilmsom was just awarded silver in the Global Music Awards for her CD of the Goldberg Variations On Harpsichord and Piano by Johann Sebastian Bach. Dr. Gilmsom is the head of Piano Pedagogy at the university here. Perhaps the most outstanding concert I have ever been to was her performance of that work both on the piano and harpsichord. How totally different was the music on the two instruments!

To find a piano teacher in your area, go to www.admta.org, click on the link to "Community Resources" on the home page for our new "Find a Teacher" registry with descriptions of each teacher's program in their studios.

How's your "brisketiquette?"

With the summer vacation in full swing, the kids out of school, and noodles floating in the pool, it's no doubt the grill is staying fired up. But...before you kick off the flip-flops, here are a few barbecue etiquette tips to ensure your grill fest goes down as the best on the block. Wait. Barbecue etiquette, you say? Yes, it exists.

1. If you're invited to a barbecue party thrown by an individual/ family, avoid showing up empty-handed. A side of coleslaw, apple pie, or pitcher of lemonade will do the trick.

2. A barbecue is an informal affair – no need to worry about which fork and knife to use. Go ahead and use your fingers in lieu of utensils. Larger pieces of food, however, should be cut with a knife and fork. No need to get medieval on us.

3. If you're like many people who wonder what is the proper way to squeeze a lemon slice and a lemon wedge? Well, here is the answer: if it is a slice, don't squeeze it-just drop it in the glass. If it is a wedge, cup your hand over it to prevent squirting, and squeeze it into the glass. Who likes lemon pulp in the eye? Not me.

4. Corn on the cob vs. man. For most people, eating corn on the cob is one of life's biggest challenges. Okay, well, maybe it's just a challenge. The best way to approach a hot cob: simply, butter a few rows of corn at a time, hold the corn firmly by the ends with two hands (or use corn skewers), and eat a few rows at a time from left to right. If you prefer to skip the bite-off-the-cob approach, you may also cut kernels off of the cob with a knife, cutting in a vertical, downward manner.

5. Similar to corn on the cob, ribs are meant to be eaten with your hands. Given their messy nature, however, it's important to have napkins on hand. For this barbecue favorite, bibs are not necessary.

6. Sauce is boss, unless it isn't offered. While Texans are usually

proud of their barbecue sauce, some barbecue purists prefer no sauce to appreciate the natural, smoked flavor of the meat. Ask for sauce only when you know it's available, or if your child requests it.

7. Grilled shrimp can be easy to eat or take a little work, depending on how it is served. As a general rule of thumb, if the shrimp has the tail on, you can use your fingers. Tails off, use a fork!

8. When hosting a large group, be sure to have a wide variety of food options for vegetarians and children.

9. To pick or not to pick? Your teeth that is. Often times, meat can be tricky to eat and require some dental maintenance. At every expense, avoid removing food from your teeth in public. Toothpicks may be used, but only in private. So what should you do if you notice someone else in the same predicament? Be discreet, but do tell.

10. Last and not least, respect the griller's domain. If the host/ griller has samples to offer, he/she will do so. Never assume you may help yourself to try what "smells good."

Now that the fundamentals are covered, what's for lunch?

This article was contributed by the National League of Junior Cotillions – Travis County, a contemporary etiquette, social skills and dance training program that serves 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in Austin. A parent informational session will be held at Barton Creek Country Club on Wednesday, August 13th at 7:30 p.m., and at the Lakeway Resort & Spa on Thursday, August 14th at 7:30 p.m. To RSVP for the informational session or learn more about the program, contact Directors, Marisol Foster or Courtney Duncan at 512.369.8302, or duncan.foster@nljc.com. Class enrollment is limited, but registration is now available online at www.nljc-austin.com.



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Aug. 28th: Got2Swim 11k Lake Austin. View event details. www.tinych.org/Got2Swim Sept. 14th: Colin's Hope Kid's Tri! Registration is now open. www.tinych.org/KidsTri Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets. info@colinshope.org Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador *Source: Texas DFPS. Watch Kids Around Water



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The Voice - August 2014 5

THE VOICE

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