



City of South Pasadena

South Pasadena Public Library

Cooling Center Policy

Approved September 9, 2013

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to raise public awareness of the City's offerings of cool temperature environments that can be beneficial to the public during heat waves. This policy is not intended to override any policy set by the State of California, County of Los Angeles, or our local fire department. The Library's intention is to help safeguard members of the community from the dangers of excessive heat.

Background

Heat waves have claimed more lives in California over the last 20 years than all other declared disasters combined. Heat waves do not always strike victims immediately, but can also slowly take their toll on vulnerable populations.

The National Weather Service initiates its Heat Index Program Alert procedures when the high is expected to exceed 105° - 110° (depending on local climate) for at least two consecutive days.

On July 27, 2013 the Library Board of Trustees approved the Library as an official City of South Pasadena Cooling Center during its regular hours of operation. The Library joins the Senior Center as an official Cooling Center. The two facilities are next door to each other but have different hours. The Senior Center is for older residents while the Library is designed for residents of all ages.

City Guidelines for Cooling Center Operations

1. Staff will check the week's weather forecast and post notices to notify the public if the Cooling Center Policy is to be deployed.
2. The National Weather Service, www.wrh.noaa.gov will be monitored to determine the forecasted temperatures.
3. The Cooling Centers will be announced to the public when temperatures reach 96° or higher. Notices will be placed at the Senior Center, and the South Pasadena Public Library entrances, and sent via an email blast.
4. The Center and the Library shall provide cold water and comfortable seating to the public. The Library, of course, also offers a broad array of education and entertainment options, including books, magazines, newspapers and computers.
5. Regular programming or services will not be canceled or changed due to the Cooling Center Policy being activated.
6. Throughout the summer, the Cooling Center policy will be placed on the Library website, in the Friends of the Library newsletter, and on the City's Facebook page in order to notify the public.