

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
Saturday, February 4, 2017

**Engaging Neighborhood
Residents for
Emergency Preparedness**

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Resilient Community Task Force

Tucson, AZ Sonoran Desert

- 1 million people live in the Tucson area and surrounding areas
- Temperatures in Tucson are generally high, with a record high of 115°



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Pathways to Resilience

Problem Awareness
Acknowledging
Climate Change

Climate Smart Southwest Conference

Community Approach

Mutual Reliance –
Adaptability Not Limited by
Personal Resources

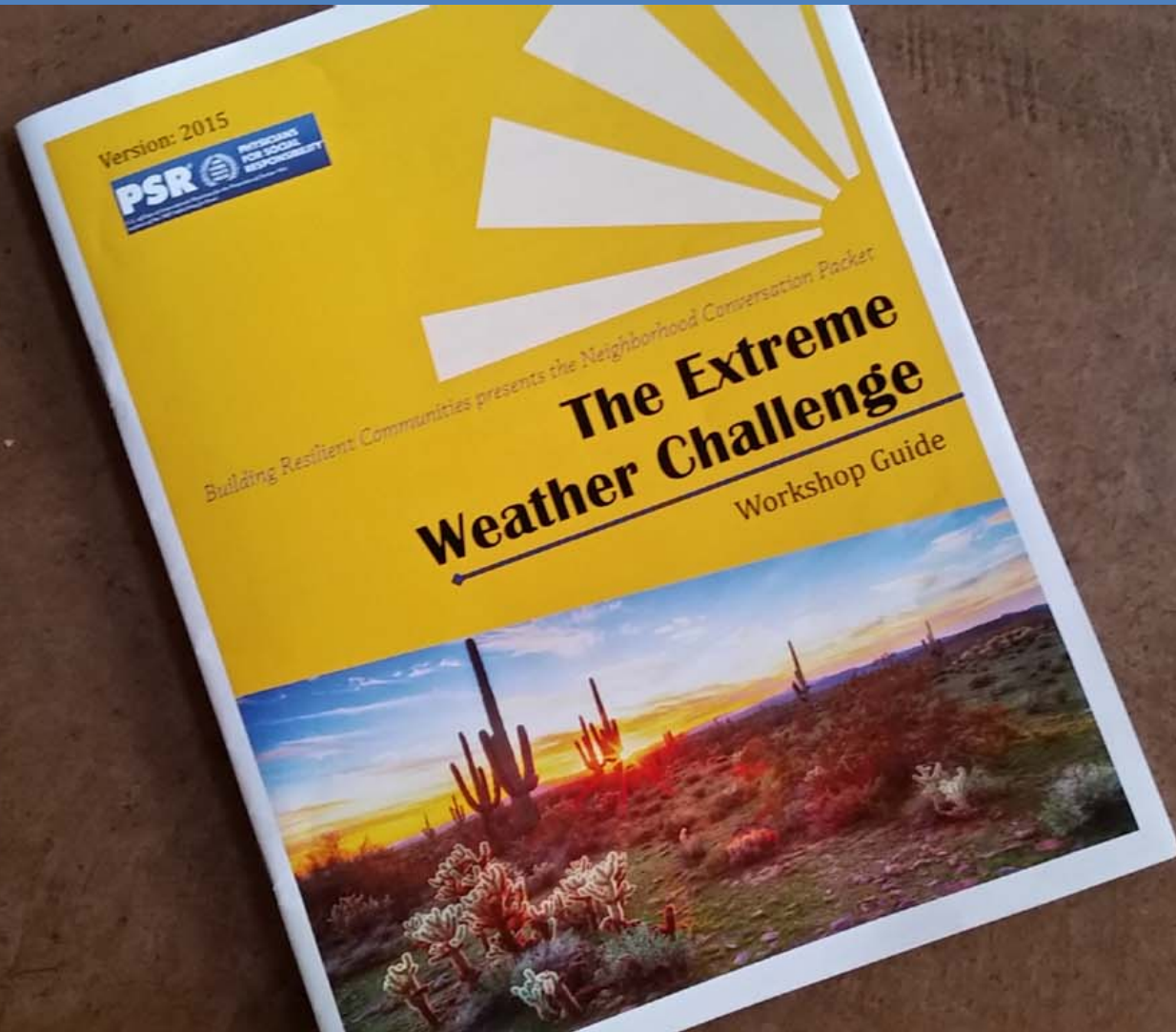
Individual Approach

Self Reliance –
Adaptability Dependent on
Personal Resources



The Extreme Weather Challenge

Workshop Guide



Workshop Purpose

*“to facilitate preparedness
for extreme heat and other
weather related emergencies
at the neighborhood level
in Southern Arizona”*


PART ONE: ASSESSING YOUR READINESS

The Heat Emergency Scenario

The Heat Emergency Scenario

- Record breaking temperatures
- Electricity out in the region
- Nighttime temperatures are over 90 degrees and temperatures inside homes exceed 85.
- Hospitals and pharmacies are closed
- Water no longer works
- Cell phones and gas pumps are closed





A Southern Arizona Climate Disaster Scenario

In November of 2013, the Arizona State Disaster preparedness agencies and State and local health departments hosted a mock disaster scenario to address a regional climate event in which **the entire grid went down for 72 hours** during an extreme heat wave.

What is the alternative to “Shelter in Place?”

PREVENTION!

Stages of Heat- Related Illness

1

- Thirst

2

- Muscle Cramps

3

- Cool, moist, pale skin
- Headache

- Vomiting, confusion, throbbing headache

4

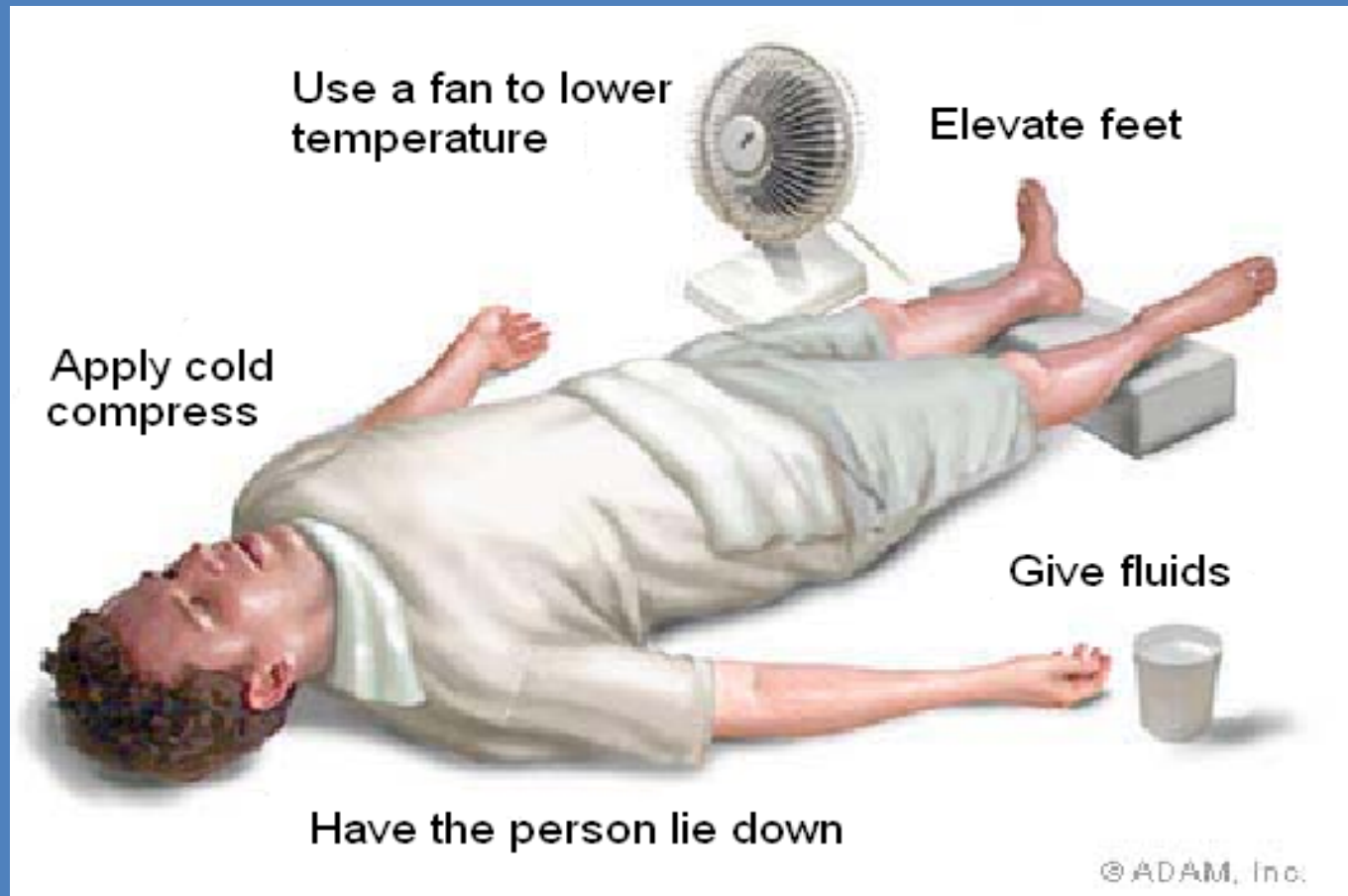
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- High body temperature
- Decrease alertness levels

- Dizziness and weakness or exhaustion
- Nausea
- The skin may or may not feel hot

Heat Exhaustion

Heat Stroke

For Heat Stroke



BREAK

PART TWO: MOVING FROM VULNERABLE TO RESILIENT



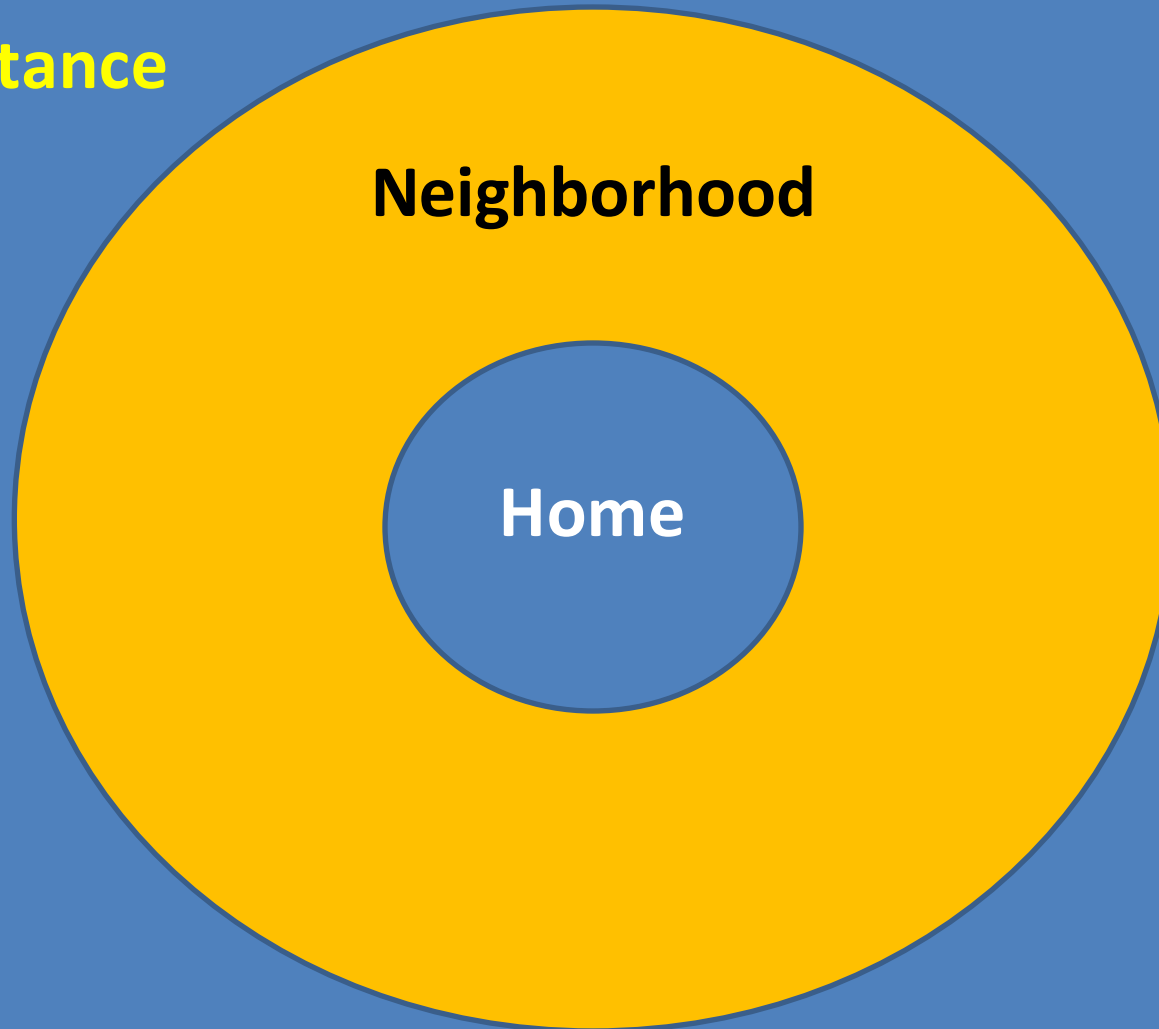
Defining “Vulnerable” to Extreme Heat

- living alone
- not leaving home daily
- lacking access to transportation
- being sick or bedridden
- elders and the very young
- substance abuse
- not having social contacts nearby
- not having an air conditioner



Identifying Who is Vulnerable

At-A-Distance



***Heat Wave - A Social Autopsy of disaster in
Chicago***, 2002, The University of Chicago Press

**BY DR. ERIC KLINENBERG,
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY FROM NYU**

Lack of neighborhood social cohesiveness

During the 1995 disaster, 739 Chicagoans
above the norm died during the week of July 14 – 20

North Lawndale

- Bombed out appearance
- Empty lots
- Little street life
- Few shops or markets
- A great deal of violent crime

Low Cohesion

19 deaths

(40 per 100 thousand)

South Lawndale

- Busy streets
- Few empty lots
- Plenty of people on the streets
- Lots of commercial activity
- Local churches provide activity

High Cohesion

3 deaths

(4 per 100 thousand)

What are We Advocating?

Preparedness through
Community Cohesion

Activity Two: The Community Cohesion Scale

Will we work together in
an emergency?



The Cor

Directions: Read through each rank c

Where does your neighborhood

Most Cohesive

5

Residents in Rating 1 Neighborhoods

- ◆ Rarely see their neighbors
- ◆ Don't usually recognize neighbors outside the neighborhood
- ◆ Know the names of three or fewer neighbors close to them and don't visit them (would not invite others in)
- ◆ Would move somewhere else if they could
- ◆ Distrust the neighbors and are suspicious of strangers and won't talk to them
- ◆ Feel like outsiders in the neighborhood
- ◆ Rely only on family or friends even if they don't live nearby

Residents in Rating 5 Neighborhoods

- ◆ Talk to each other in several ways (in person, by phone or email, and in meetings)
- ◆ Have an organized association with officers and have several smaller social groups in the neighborhood who do things together
- ◆ Visit each other's homes and do things together outside the neighborhood because they are friends
- ◆ Ask for each other's advice or help and look out for each other out of respect and trust.

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Activity Two: Community Cohesion

1. Why have you given your neighborhood area the rank that you have?
2. What are some ideas for increasing your area's cohesiveness?

Please be prepared to report out to the larger group.

BREAK:

**PART THREE:
PREPARING FOR HEAT-
RELATED EMERGENCIES**



Activity Three:

Home Worksheet

Use the home worksheet to help you find out how prepared your household is for adverse climate events.

- The first part of the worksheet describes the people in your home and the resources you have
- The second part helps you know which people in your house will have a health risk and need help

Sharing Supplies and Resources With Your Neighbors

- Planning Water and Food Security
- Identifying Cool Places in Your Neighborhood
- Keeping cool and hydrated
- Communicating with neighbors and emergency services



Activity Four: Making Help Available

Individual  Community

- Skills and Expertise
 - What can you and your neighbors offer?
- Resources and Supplies
 - What do you need and what can you share?
- Vulnerable People
 - Who needs help and who are you committing to help?
- Coordination
 - How will your neighborhood coordinate assistance and what about non-participants?

Activity Five:

6-Week Community Challenge

Imagine activities your neighborhood can engage in to help vulnerable neighbors.

- What are some short-term (6 weeks) projects your neighborhood will commit to create resilience to withstand heat and other forms of neighborhood stress?

Please be prepared to report out to the larger group.

Project Planning

- What are the steps to completing your project?
- Who will volunteer to work on each step?
- How long will they have to complete it?



CDC Grant: Preparedness Findings

- **Vulnerable communities are a challenge to engage:** American Indian, homebound, disabled and undocumented low income, some who speak Spanish but not English.
- **Low levels of cohesion negate collaboration:** legal status, social isolation, disillusionment or distrust of public agencies or outsiders.
- **Follow up visits are important** and may yield information about effort to cohere on action

Take Away

- Neighborhood leaders in semi-cohesive neighborhoods are an underutilized resource for bridging the gap between those with resources and those who need help in an emergency.
- Workshop design that engages people in conversation about action can begin building the connections for resilience in an emergency

Contacts/Links

Learn more about the Arizona Chapter of the
Physicians for Social Reasonability at:

www.psr.org/azclimate

Heat Emergency Challenge Website:

<http://www.buildingresilientneighborhoods.org/>

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