



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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Yolo County Urges Residents To Be Prepared This Summer

(Yolo County, CA) - As we are beginning this summer, the County of Yolo strongly emphasizes the need for our community to prepare before an event occurs. Officials' primary focus is to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone who calls Yolo County their home. This summer will pose similar risks to what we have experienced in recent years, such as dangerous heatwaves and regional wildfires impacting air quality. We need to come together as a community, equip ourselves, and prioritize preparedness before any occurrences. By recognizing potential challenges and taking proactive measures, we can ensure our readiness and effectively respond to any potential risks.

Dr. Aimee Sisson, Yolo County's Public Health Officer, emphasizes the importance of staying cool and hydrated during hot weather and offers the following advice:

"As temperatures rise, it is essential to take care of ourselves and avoid heat-related illness, which can range from uncomfortable to deadly. Remember to drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids, seek out shaded or air-conditioned spaces, and look out for your loved ones and neighbors. Let's support each other in staying safe and comfortable during the summer heat."

The County of Yolo consists of staff who understand the challenges that the summer season can bring, and we want to assure our community that we stand with them in navigating these potential risks. As part of a community with a shared commitment to safety, officials urge everyone to take proactive steps to protect themselves and their loved ones this summer.

Be Heat-Smart: With the summer heat in full force, it's crucial to prioritize personal well-being and stay cool. Here are some tips to beat the heat:

- To prepare for extreme heat, it is important to prioritize hydration by drinking ample non-alcoholic fluids throughout the day. Keep a water bottle readily available, wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing, and plan outdoor activities.
- Seek shade or air-conditioned spaces to find relief from the scorching temperatures. We encourage you to create areas dedicated to cooling off and to share them with friends and neighbors in need. Additionally, Yolo County's libraries and recreation centers are accessible cooling locations.
- Check on your neighbors!

Monitor Air Quality: In the event of a regional wildfire, it is crucial to be informed about air quality conditions, stay connected with resources, and take necessary precautions to protect your respiratory health. “Heavy smoke from wildfires poses serious health risks to our vulnerable populations,” states Gretchen Bennitt, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District’s Air Pollution Control Officer. “The District’s smoke preparedness outreach aims to raise awareness of the health impacts of wildfire smoke, educate our residents on where to find important air quality resources, and provide practical tools to help everyone protect themselves and their loved ones.”

- Regularly check the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast and register for air quality alerts on the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) website: www.ysaqmd.org. Our partner agencies are working together to help you stay informed and make the best choices for your health and the health of your loved ones.
- If air quality is compromised, limit exposure by staying indoors with windows and doors closed, use your air conditioner or recycle if possible. YSAQMD can assist you in prioritizing your well-being and creating a clean air space here: www.ysaqmd.org/wildfire. If you have questions, please get in touch with YSAQMD at (530) 757-3650 – available M-F 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m..
- Consult with healthcare providers if you or your loved ones have pre-existing respiratory conditions for personalized guidance.

Prepare for Red Flag Warnings and Potential Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS): Red flag warnings indicate an increased risk of wildfires, which may lead to PSPS in areas of the county. To ensure everyone's safety, let's be prepared:

- Create an emergency kit with supplies such as flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, and a first aid kit. Let's have our emergency kits ready as a united community.
- Develop a communication and evacuation plan with your family or household. Establish a designated meeting point where you can regroup for support.
- Stay informed about red flag warnings through reliable sources like the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services and the National Weather Service.
- Sign up for emergency alerts and notifications from the county to receive timely updates on PSPS and other events. Sign up today by visiting www.yolocounty.org/living/emergency-alerts-health-alerts.

The County of Yolo, through the Office of Emergency Services, is actively collaborating with local agencies and partners to monitor potential risks and respond swiftly to any emergencies. We are committed to keeping our community safe and encourage residents to stay connected and informed through our official website, social media channels, and emergency alert systems.

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