

Smog Episodes and Excessive Heat

927.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures in the event of a smog episode and during periods of excessive heat. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

927.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections, Title 15, Article 3, § 1327

927.3 POLICY

Every reasonable precaution shall be taken to ensure the safety and security of individuals and property in the event of a smog episode and during periods of excessive heat.

927.4 REQUIREMENTS

A written procedure shall be available in each juvenile facility that specifies the action to be taken in an emergency situation involving smog episodes and during periods of excessive heat.

The duty officer (DO) shall contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on shift two and three, via the SCAQMD telephone number or website, to obtain the Air Quality Index (AQI) report. The DO shall decide what actions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of youth and staff based on the report received.

927.5 FIRST STAGE SMOG EPISODE

When a health advisory or first stage smog (oxidant) episode is called by the SCAQMD, Riverside County schools and juvenile facilities shall accept this as a smog alert condition.

The DO shall notify all units and direct juvenile facility staff to ensure youth are restricted from participating in strenuous exercises including competitive sports during a first stage smog episode.

All activities, both indoors and outdoors, which require deep breathing shall be terminated immediately.

927.6 SECOND STAGE SMOG EPISODE

When a second stage smog (oxidant) episode is called, the DO shall take specific steps to ensure the health and safety of youth and staff.

A second stage smog episode shall be considered an emergency situation for maintenance and custodial personnel and shall take priority over the work at hand, unless that work involves the health and safety of youth and/or staff.

All work outdoors shall be terminated. The DO shall cancel all outside scheduled activities and direct youth and staff to remain indoors. Activities for youth shall be restricted to those which do not require running, jumping or any other exercise which would require the increased intake of air.

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On days when a second stage smog episode has been called by the SCAQMD, staff shall be requested to reduce the use of automobiles to the maximum extent possible; carpooling and/or use of public transportation is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

Scheduled staff meetings which require participants to drive their automobiles shall be rescheduled or cancelled.

927.7 THIRD STAGE SMOG EPISODE

When a third stage smog (oxidant) episode is called, the DO shall take specific steps to ensure the health and safety of youth and staff.

Automobile use shall be reduced to as close to 100% as possible.

Cancel all meetings and public hearings not already in session that require travel.

Prohibit use of automobiles except for emergencies.

Facility manager(s) may permit individual employees to take sick leave during a third stage smog episode. Approval for sick leave shall be granted only after consideration for the needs of the juvenile facility.

Youth and staff shall remain in air conditioned buildings with activities reduced to those essential to properly supervise youth and maintain facility operations.

927.8 PERIODS OF EXCESSIVE HEAT

When temperatures are excessive, the following precautions shall be taken by youth and staff:

- (a) Youth shall wear lightweight clothing;
- (b) Physical activities shall be limited;
- (c) Remain in protected areas; and
- (d) Drink large amounts of liquids.

927.9 RELATED PROCEDURES

When a smog episode is on the forecast or anticipated, the DO shall ensure they contact the SCAQMD office and obtain an oxidant level report.

Upon notification of a smog episode, the DO shall notify the facility manager(s) and all juvenile facility staff. Staff are to follow the proper procedures.

In the event of a second and third stage episode, staff shall notify the DO upon returning to their units.

The DO shall notify all staff of any changes in oxidant levels including cancellation of all stages.

The facility manager(s) shall ensure all juvenile facility staff conduct an annual review of the smog episodes and excessive heat procedures.

Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

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The telephone number for SCAQMD is: 1-800-242-4666 from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri; the after-hours telephone number is 1-800-242-4022. The web address is: <http://aqmd.gov/>.

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