



# *Heat Emergencies*



## *Historical Perspective*

- A 1993 heat wave in Philadelphia was blamed for the deaths of 115 people.
- In 1995, a heat wave killed more than 700 people in Chicago and 85 in Milwaukee.
- An estimated 35,000 lives were lost in the 2003 heat wave in Europe, 15,000 in France alone.
- This year about 4,000 have died in Europe as a result of heat.



# *Weather Fatalities in Minnesota*

## *1991- 2005*

- 14 – Heat (2 in 1995, 1 in 1999, 11 in 2001)
- 9 – Tornado
- 8 – Flood
- 7 – Lightning
- 6 – Winter Storm
- 4 – Cold
- 4 – Straight Line Wind



# *Planning Coordination*

- City of Minneapolis Heat Task Force (January 2005)
- Energy CENTS Coalition Grant
- Combined forces and added group representatives:
  - Hennepin County Public Health and Emergency Management
  - Ramsey County Public Health and Emergency Management
  - City of Saint Paul Public Health and Emergency Management
  - State of MN Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
  - National Weather Service
  - University of Minnesota Department of Climatology
  - NSP/Excel
  - Red Cross
  - Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Housing
  - United Way 2-1-1

A metro task force composed of public, private, and non-profit agencies dedicated to reducing the risk to life and health during heat-related emergencies in the Metropolitan Area.



*SuperHOT Task Force*



## *Purpose*

- **Main Task Force Goals:**
  - Build Public Information Campaign
  - Build Network of Involved Partners
  - Define Heat Emergency Criteria
  - Establish Emergency Plan contents
  - Set Activation Thresholds & Processes
  - Transportation Coordination
  - Shelter & Cooling Site Coordination
  - Develop Hotline Assistance Resources



## *Products & Outcomes*

- **Letter to Community Org. & Support Agencies**
  - Cooling Tips
  - Invitation to Join United Way 2-1-1 Alerting Network
- **Heat Emergency Media Releases**
- **Brochure**
- **MN Dept of Health (MDH) Web Site Information**
- **Notification Process**
  - Multiple Avenues (media, fax alerts, email)
  - Multiple Agencies & Community Organizations
- **United Way 2-1-1 Hotline Resources**
- **Emergency Operations Plan Annex template for local jurisdiction agencies**



## *Mpls – St. Paul Heat Definitions*

- Heat WATCH: HI of 105 ° likely in next 24-72 hours (115 outside metro)
- Heat ADVISORY: HI of 105° for  $\geq 3$  hours (105 outside metro)
- Heat WARNING: HI of 110° for  $\geq 3$  hours (115 outside metro)
- Continues overnight if forecast low temp is  $> 75$  °

In the metro, if high heat continues for more than 3 days, a WARNING will be issued on Day 4 at 105°



## *Activation - Alerting*

- National Weather Service message (NPW)
- NWS - verbal notification of State Duty Officer
- NWS message to MDH & PSAPs  
(Public Safety Answering Points – 911 centers)
- Health Alert Network (HAN)
- United Way 2-1-1 included on HAN
- United Way Fax/E-mail list of interested community organizations

MDH Environmental Health Division is Approval Authority  
for Heat-Related HAN Activations

SuperHOT Task Force



## *United Way 2-1-1*

- **Hotline Service**
- **Fax/E-mail Alert to Community Organizations**
- **Script for 2-1-1 Call-Takers**
- **Local EM Directors to Provide Shelter Updates to 2-1-1 for Info Dissemination**
- **Phone Message While 2-1-1 Call is on Hold**



## *2-1-1 From Then to Now*

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1948

### Community Information Center

- One staff
- One phone line
- 3,307 calls

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1977

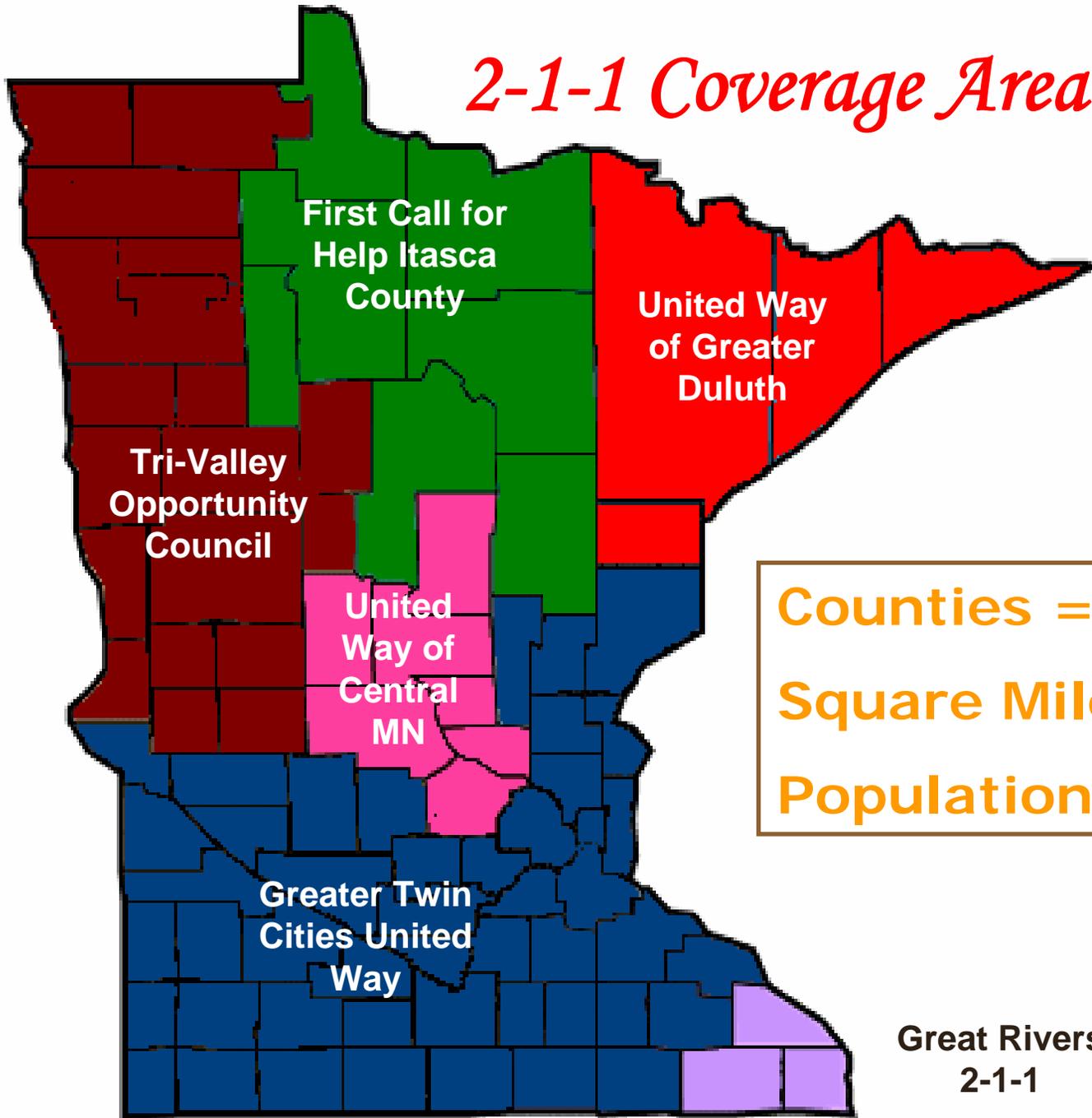
### “First Call for Help”

- Statewide network (800 number)
- One software application
- 11 call centers
- Work with PUC; convert from 10-digit phone number to 2-1-1
- 24/7 multi-lingual access
- Confidential/Anonymous
- Broad-based
- First point of access

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1996 –  
2002

# 2-1-1 Coverage Area



**Counties = 87**

**Square Miles = 79,548**

**Population = 4,919,000**

**Great Rivers  
2-1-1**



*Will It Work...??*

*... We've Had a Start !!*

- July 22-24, 2005 and July 24-25 2007 Activation
- NWS Used Heat ADVISORY Criteria
- Alerting System worked:
  - NWS to SDO to MDH & PSAPs
  - MDH used HAN to Alert Locals
- Results Indicated No Known Deaths Due to Heat



## *Next Steps*

- **Address Needs of Vulnerable Populations**
- **Multiple Language Messages**
- **Transportation Alternatives**
- **Ongoing Shelter Planning**
- **Evaluation of the System**
- **Development of Buddy Systems?**
- **Discussion of System Statewide?**



*Questions?*

