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NEWS RELEASE

06/18/2024

City Cooling Centers Remain Open for Juneteenth Holiday

EL PASO, **Texas**— The City of El Paso and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will keep the community's cooling centers open during the Juneteenth holiday tomorrow, Wednesday, June 19. Libraries and other city facilities will be closed for the holiday.

Temperatures are expected to cool down on Thursday, June 20, allowing the centers to be deactivated for the rest of the week; however, emergency personnel will continue to monitor the weather.

Emergency and public health officials continue reminding residents to remain vigilant to avoid heat-related illnesses. Residents, particularly our most vulnerable residents, including seniors, pregnant women, and children, are reminded to stay hydrated, wear light clothing, never leave people or pets in a car, and check on elderly neighbors, friends, and family who may be at risk.

The cooling centers provide an indoor, air-conditioned environment for residents to visit and cool down throughout the day. The centers are a collaboration between OEM, the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation, and the Extreme Weather Task Force.

The following cooling centers will be available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, June 19:

- Galatzan Recreation Center (650 Wallenberg)
- Marty Robbins Recreation Center (11620 Vista Del Sol)
- Valle Bajo Community Center (7380 Alameda)
- Nations Tobin Sports Center (8831 Railroad)
- Chalio Acosta Sports Center (4321 Delta)

Officials also urge residents to keep their pets safe, especially outdoor pets, by providing proper shade, giving them plenty of fresh, clean water in a shaded area, and not taking them on walks during peak temperatures when their sensitive paw pads can burn.

Residents who require after-hours/overnight assistance can dial 311 to receive information about our shelter network partners. For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1.

For more information about heat safety, please visit <u>elpasoready.org/extreme-heat</u>.

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