

PREPARING FOR EXTREME HEAT AND PREVENTING HEAT ILLNESS

Florida Association of Counties Innovation and Policy Conference
September 2022

WHEREAS, Eighteen of the last nineteen summers were the hottest on record, and

WHEREAS, Rising temperatures correlate to a rising risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths, and

WHEREAS, Persons who are elderly, sick, or low-income and especially children and those who work outdoors are particularly vulnerable to these potential health consequences, and

WHEREAS, The three-year average of workplace deaths caused by heat has doubled since the early 1990s according to the US Department of Labor, and

WHEREAS, Humid heat is more dangerous to human health and well-being than dry heat, and

WHEREAS, Florida - surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean - is the most humid state in the U.S., and

WHEREAS, Many people suffer from respiratory illness or other health problems that are affected by humidity, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Association of Counties recognizes the significant public health threat imposed by heat-related illnesses, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Association of Counties supports the scientific research necessary for evidence-based policy decisions related to heat illness prevention, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Association of Counties encourages health professionals to work with local and state health departments to strengthen the public health infrastructure to ensure that the health effects of extreme heat can be anticipated and responded to more efficiently, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Association of Counties encourages health professionals to identify and counsel patients most at risk for extreme heat-related illness especially those working outdoors in tourism, agriculture, in construction and at our ports and more, to be counseled about heat illness prevention strategies.