Health Impacts of Drought

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Drought-Related Public Health Impacts

• Probability varies widely
• Depends on:
  – Severity, baseline population vulnerability, existing health and sanitation infrastructure, and available resources
• Socio-economic environment influences community resiliency
• Difficult to make a direct correlation
Infrastructure: health, sanitation, available resources

Baseline public health: capacity for resilience

Drought
- Water shortages
- Impacts on livelihoods: loss of crops, livestock, fisheries, etc.
- Increased food prices
- Migration

Indirect health effects

Increased morbidity and mortality
- Nutrition-related effects
- Mental health effects
- Vector-borne disease
- Airborne and dust-related disease
- Water-related disease
- Other: injuries, migration-related health issues, wildfires, health care system and infrastructure impacts, etc.
Proposed CDPH Monitoring Indicators

- Vector: West Nile Virus
- Food: production, prices, impact on vulnerable populations
- Water: Contaminates, increased use of disinfectants, seawater intrusion
- Fish: Lower numbers, higher burden of contaminants
- Wildfires: Air quality, ED visits for respiratory issues
Potential for Increased Wildfires

• Dry conditions due to drought
• Fires have tripled compared to previous years
  – > 900 fires since January per Cal Fire
• High potential for fires which lead to evacuation and the need for shelters
Need for Sheltering
Public Health Role

- Support the public health and medical mission at a General Population Shelter
- Activate and operate a medical shelter
NOTE: Activation of any site within the healthcare surge continuum is incident driven (e.g., not all sites will be activated for all incidents).
Medical Shelters

Temporary location providing medical care and support beyond that which can be provided at a general population shelter to displaced individuals to maintain their usual level of health during an incident.
Activation Indicators

- Displacement of individuals with medical needs from their homes
- Immediate needs exceed ability to evacuate to a “like facility”
- Higher level of medical skill, resources, or infrastructure than available in a General Population Shelter
Operational Approaches

- **Stand-alone**
  - Intensive undertaking
  - Resource intensive

- **Collocated**
  - Shared resources
  - Families and friends stay together
  - Requires coordination
Other Considerations

• Potential for extreme heat
  – Vulnerable populations at risk
  – Need for cooling centers
What questions do you have???

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