

SATCOM
on
**Orientation Program for Traffic Police on
Heat Wave Preparedness**

Friday, 20-May-2022
1500 to 1700 hrs

Organized by



Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

A. Background

Climate change has emerged as the biggest challenge to humanity in the 21st Century. It is imposing unprecedented damages on the environment, economies, and health of the people. As **climate change** continues, heat waves are going to intensify and become the strong, although the stochastic, impact of climate change on life. Recent heatwave emergencies highlight the need for Public Health Preparedness among vulnerable groups.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation health team in Gujarat, has worked with Indian Institute of Public Health and Natural Resources Defence Council teams for over three years to make India's first heatwave action plan, **Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan** is a strong model for how cities can manage risks from rising temperatures through public outreach, capacity building and interagency coordination. Moreover, the initial climate reports suggest that even the year 2020 which faced lockdowns globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic has turned out to be one of the warmest years of the world's history with an annual average temperature of 1.25 °C above preindustrial levels.

Traffic Police are an occupational group highly vulnerable to worsening heat and air quality trends. With predictions of more intense and frequent extreme heat events induced by climate change, identifying awareness-building and protective interventions tailored for vulnerable communities is a priority to protect lives. As in many cities, a group particularly at-risk of the health impacts of extreme heat are field staff, e.g. street vendors, traffic police, construction and agricultural workers, who perform physical labor during the hottest hours of the day. The combination of physical stress and heat exposure makes these workers especially susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

The department has made a considerable effort to improve the health and comfort of its staff, partly through the implementation of Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan. These actions include participation in a heat sensitization workshop on heat-related precautions and care, installation of drinking water and toilet facilities at various sites around the city, and other administrative measures. Progress on quantifying the effects of occupational heat exposure on traffic police workers is already underway.



Helmet Circle Traffic Junction has a designated office area for shade and water.

One can't act on something until one is not aware of it. And therefore, it necessary to be aware of extreme heat and its risk in the first place to take any measures to adapt to it and to mitigate its harm. Contemplating this, GIDM has developed the training module on the subject “**Extreme Heat Prevention and Management**” to help the trainers use it for the training of participants working in various government and non-government organizations and have a direct or indirect role in protecting the health of people from extreme heat during summers.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a revised **Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave-2017**. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes that DRR efforts must first and foremost address the **risks** faced by the most vulnerable to disasters.

Keeping in view of the subject, GIDM has planned to organize a SATCOM (VANDE Gujarat), BISAG on “**Orientation Program for Traffic Police on Heat Wave Preparedness**” on Friday, **20-May-2022** from 1500 to 1700 hrs.

B. Objectives

This training will work as the guide for the trainer as well as learners to understand the basics of heatwaves, the key areas necessary for planning the prevention and management of extreme heat to minimize impacts on traffic police. Under this, the following specific objectives will be pursued -

- Understanding Basics of Extreme Heat and Heat Waves;
- Disaster Risk of Extreme Heat and Impact on Traffic Police;
- Planning and Management during Extreme Heat;
- Action Plan and future Strategies.

Key Words: First Responders, Communities, Risk Management

C. Targeted Participants

The target group for this program will be the L2 and L3 level officials State Traffic Branch working with Home Department.

References

1. GIDM Training Module on Understanding Disaster Risk Management (*Gujarati version*)
2. GIDM Training Module on Extreme Heat Prevention and Management
3. All Presentations and Scholarly Articles
www.gidm.gujarat.gov.in