



## Shelter from the Heat

While on a call in White Settlement in early August, MedStar Field Supervisor Kathy Summers and the ALS team of Jaime Beck and Joe Gonzales treated more than the chest pains of the original patient. They found an entire neighborhood in need.

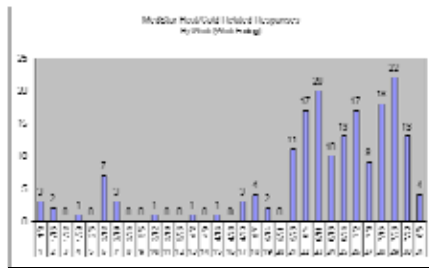
Power and air conditioning had not been operating for several days when the team arrived at the Legacy Apartments on the first Sunday in August. Repairs wouldn't be completed for several more days, but temperatures had already topped the century mark and were climbing steadily with no relief in sight.

Once the original patient had been taken care of, Kathy dialed the White Settlement Fire Department to alert them to the situation. With the collaborative effort, a temporary shelter was set up at Brewer Middle School. At the request of the City, the Red Cross arrived to supply cots, supplies and food.

Kathy, Jaime and Joe worked together for more than four hours to help ensure that the residents of the apartment complex were given a welcome respite from the sweltering August heat.

## North Texas Heat Wave

As the mercury rises, so do the number of calls for heat-related emergencies. Since the last week of May, heat-related cases have corresponded logically to the increasing average temperatures.



These numbers are not just hot air. At least 8 North Texans have already lost their lives to heat-related causes so far this year and according to the American Red Cross, heat has caused more deaths in recent years than any other weather-related event.

Heatstroke can be deadly and occurs when the body suffers from long, intense exposure to heat and loses its ability to regulate its own temperature. Click for [Heat Wave Safety Tips](#) from the American Red Cross.



John Elder, Clinical Services Manager

## The Wise Elder's Clinical Quick Quiz

Test your clinical knowledge with this question and email your answer to [info@medstar911.org](mailto:info@medstar911.org). One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received to win a MedStar Gift Pack with a ball cap and on-the-go note pad.

- QUESTION:** Heatstroke is generally characterized by a body temperature of at least \_\_\_\_\_ accompanied by central nervous system disturbances, and usually the cessation of sweating.
- A) 95° F                      B) 100° F                      C) 102° F                      D) 105° F

## MedStar Milestone

MedStar has made Priority 1 Call Compliance system-wide over the past four consecutive months.



This July, MedStar has also achieved 90% compliance for ALL FIVE priority call levels.

### System Performance Monthly Summary July 1—31, 2010

Call Priority	# of Calls	On Time %	Avg. Resp. Time
1	1,966	91.7%	05:21
2	3,613	93.3%	05:40
3	2,865	92.3%	07:41
4	87	93.1%	As scheduled + .57
5	496	95.2%	As scheduled + 8:16

**Total 9,027**

#### Response time goals (90% of time):

- Priority 1 9 min. or less
- Priority 2 11 min. or less
- Priority 3 15 min. or less
- Priority 4 & 5 As scheduled

## Dog Days of Summer

Named in honor of the "Dog Star" Sirius in the constellation Canis Major, the Dog Days of Summer are those days when temperatures soar without relief.

While Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, is actually not visible during the summer months in the northern hemisphere. In ancient times, the star rose in tandem with the sun, earning the name Sirius which is Greek for "scorching."

