

Guideline Name: Warm Weather Uniform		Department: Orange County Emergency Services
Effective Date: September 6, 2016	Issued: September 6, 2016	Approval(s): Kim Woodward EMS Operations Manager 

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all members of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division.

PURPOSE

- To establish a standard approach to decision-making and develop consistency to the current OCES uniform policy during warm weather situations.
- To outline the process for determining when Warm Weather Uniform Policy may be enacted.
- To allow for improved comfort without losing the professional appearance of our organization.
- To define Warm Weather Uniform options.

DEFINITIONS

- **Heat Precaution Threshold** – As defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), is any period of exposure to a heat index of 91 or above. OSHA suggests that precautions be implemented at this time.
 - **For comfort and safety, OCES will use a 91 heat index threshold.**
- **Heat Index** – a measure of what temperature feels like based on ambient temperature and relative humidity.
 - **OCES will use the heat index provided by the National Weather Service (NWS)** [\[www.weather.gov\]](http://www.weather.gov)

PROCEDURE

- At the start of an Operational Period, EMS 10 and EMS 11 must consult the NWS Heat Index and must **JOINTLY** agree that the Heat Precaution Threshold will be reached for that period.
- EMS 10 and EMS 11 must agree that the warm weather uniform will be used:
 - This may be **EITHER** OCES issued T-shirt **OR** OCES issued Polo shirt.
 - Safety is paramount to uniformity
 - This will be the standard uniform for that shift.
 - Regardless of the uniform, shirts will be tucked in and kept in a professional appearance.
- Heat Precaution will be documented on the 214.
- Enactment of the Warm weather uniform will be posted on 214.
- All field personnel may wear the warm weather uniform from sunrise to sunset.
- In the event that EMS 10 and EMS 11 cannot agree, the decision will be made by the Deputy Operations Manager or their designee.