



Heatwaves are the “**silent killer**”

In Australia
they have
caused more
deaths than all
other natural
disasters

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology issues **Heatwave Alerts**. Incorporate these into your ED Disaster Plan.

Expect a **jump in attendances**.

Consider **heat-related illness** in the differential diagnosis for altered mental state.

For heat stroke, early aggressive cooling **saves lives**.

Identify **at risk individuals** and take vulnerability to heat-related illness into account when considering disposition.

Educate patients, families and carers about preventing heat-related illness.

For more information see ACEM's *Heat Health Resource for Emergency Departments*: visit acem.org.au.

