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Surveillance Snapshot: Reportable Medical Events of Heat Injury in Relation to Heat Index, June-September 2011

In the U.S. military, notifiable heat injuries include heat stroke and other moderate to severe heat-related injuries that require medical intervention or result in lost duty time. During June through September of 2011, 1,265 heat injuries among active and reserve component members were reported from 46 U.S. military installations worldwide. Of these, nearly one-half (n=618) were reported from one large training installation in the southeastern United States; and at this installation, 80 percent (n=498) were reported on just 7 days with at least 48 cases each day.

Clusters of heat injuries at this installation were reported during periods of increasing heat stress (e.g. heat index), though not on the days with the highest measurements of heat index. There were no heat injuries associated with the 25 days when the heat index was 105 or greater. Eighty-six percent (n=529) of the heat injuries were associated with heat index readings between 90 and 104.

Notifiable heat injuries reported from a single training installation in the southeastern United States (n=380) and heat index at that installation, by day, 1 June - 30 September 2011

*Based on National Weather Service data*