

# News Release



## **Operation Weather Survival**

Operation Weather Survival is a network of public and private organizations that coordinate resources and educate the public to prevent illness and death caused by extreme hot or cold weather.

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City of St. Louis  
Department of  
Health and Hospitals  
314/612-5309

Jefferson County  
Health Department  
636/942-3101

St. Charles County  
Department of  
Community Health  
and the Environment  
636/949-7477

St. Louis County  
Department of Health  
314/615-6445

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P.O. Box 14507  
St. Louis, MO 63178-0507

## **Media Advisory**

### ***Contact:***

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Operation Weather Survival  
(314) 531-9779

### **HOW TO SELECT, LOCATE, CARE FOR YOUR AIR CONDITIONER**

With another heat wave upon us, it is important to maintain your air conditioner! Operation Weather Survival and AmerenUE offer tips on how to do that.

#### **Hire a professional to:**

- Clean the indoor and outdoor coils of your air conditioning unit.
- Check for the proper refrigerant charge.
- Inspect the suction line.
- Measure the temperature drop across the coil.
- Check the voltage and amperage readings on all fans and compressors.
- Check for dirty blower wheels and duct leakage.

#### **And you can:**

- Clean leaves and debris from outdoor units; keep shrubs away from units.
- Change filters monthly during periods of high usage (You should be able to see light clearly through the filter. If not, change it!).
- Move furniture away from air registers to allow free flow of cool air.

#### **When purchasing and installing an air conditioner:**

- Look for the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio number (SEER). The higher the SEER, the better. 10 is minimum; 11 is good; 12 or above is excellent.
- Make sure you size the central air conditioner to the size of the house; oversizing a unit affects efficiency. An oversized unit, while reducing the temperature inside the house, may not run long enough to remove moisture to keep humidity down.
- Make sure you have adequate volume of return air getting back to the indoor coil; too little can lower the coil temperature to the point of ice formation.
- Place the outdoor unit of a central air conditioner away from a clothes dryer vent. Lint can stop air flow through the outdoor coil and result in a failed compressor. Don't plant shrubs around outdoor compressors; units are designed to operate correctly only if surrounded by a clear area of at least two feet.
- Avoid locating compressors under a deck. The deck floor re-circulates the air through the coil, resulting in lower efficiency.