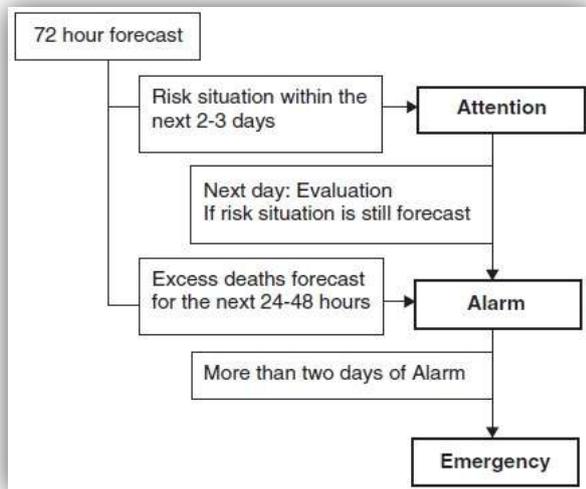


## Adaptation option: Heat Health Warning System

<b>Cluster:</b>	Governance
<b>Climate Impact:</b>	Heat Stress
<b>Spatial scale:</b>	City / Regional



Example of a heat health warning system with three levels of alert (attention, alarm and emergency) used in the US. Since 2003 it is common to have warning systems with more than one level of response.

Source: Kovats & Kristie (2006)

### Description

Heat waves can cause increased death rates, especially among older people. Heat health warning systems predict the risk of dangerous heat waves using meteorological information and can therefore warn these vulnerable people in advance.

### Effectiveness

Heat stress: A heat health warning system is a preventive adaptation option

### Financial aspects

- For heat health warning systems there are the initial costs, costs of maintaining the system and probably some costs per warning (direct and indirect).
- The return on investment for heat health warning systems will be once a heat wave is present and as a result of the warning system people's lives are saved.

### Organisation

- Municipalities and local governments are in charge to implement this warning system

### Management and maintenance

- Annual monitoring of the functioning of the warning system is required

### Considerations

-

### Information sources

- Birkmann J., Garschagen M., Kraas F., Quang N. *Adaptive urban governance: new challenges for the second generation of urban adaptation strategies to climate change*. Sustainable Science 5 (2010), pp. 185-206.
- Hunt A. and Watkiss P. *Climate change impacts and adaptation in cities: a review of the literature*. Climatic Change 104 (2011), pp. 13-49.
- Kovats, R.S. & Kristie, L.E. (2006). Heatwaves and public health in Europe. The European Journal of Public Health, 16, 592-599.
- *Maatregelenoverzicht Klimaatadaptatie*. Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. Published in November 2011.