



Lebanon VA
Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 228-6030

News Release

Contact: Scott W. Harman, 717-228-6030

For Immediate Release

Date: July 22, 2010

LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER'S LOSS OF AIR CONDITIONING TO MULTIPLE PATIENT CARE BUILDINGS

At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday July 21, 2010, the Lebanon VA Medical Center experienced a total loss of air conditioning in multiple patient care buildings. A partial failure of the air condition systems was also sustained on Monday, but was since repaired. This is due to a cooling line break which has been identified and in the process of being repaired.

As a precaution, and due to high temperature forecast, action was taken to relocate patients to other local and VA hospitals. All 107 inpatients were professionally and safely transported by ground without incident. In addition family members were notified prior to the relocation of the Veterans. Lebanon County Emergency Management Agency has mobilized and continues to provide support and assistance. All efforts were taken to safely care for Veterans. Veterans will not be returned to the Lebanon VA Medical Center until the cooling line is fully repaired, and functional.

Normal operations continued Thursday for Outpatient Clinics, Specialty Care and Primary Care. Medical Center staff met with Veterans reporting for scheduled outpatient appointments and informed them, the Medical Center's air conditioning was not working and the temperatures were escalated in the clinics. The Veteran was given the choice to be seen for the scheduled appointment or reschedule at their convenience.

Due to the inability to regulate clinic room temperature, certain procedures in select specialty clinics are not able to be completed at this time. Veterans are being contacted to reschedule appointments at a later date.

The Incident Command Center will remain operational until the air conditioning issue is resolved.

Veterans with any questions or concerns are ask to call 717-272 -6621 extension 4443

Press may contact Scott Harman at 272-6621, extension 6030 for further information.