

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

AUGUST 7, 2023

REVIEWING JULY 31 – AUGUST 6

Summary

- The month of July concluded as the hottest month ever in the recorded history of Phoenix, by a considerable margin. It was also the hottest month ever for any major American city.
- Heat-related 911 call volumes remain higher than is typical for this time of the year but remain lower than the daily peaks seen in mid-July.
- The City continues to support enhanced operations at select locations in downtown Phoenix, including the deployment of a city bus as a temporary cooling center.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Temperatures will modestly drop this week as a surge of humidity arrives from the Gulf of California. Daily highs will be at or below 110°F through Friday, until drier air and another chance at temperatures near 115°F arrives for the weekend.

Tue Aug 08	Wed Aug 09	Thu Aug 10	Fri Aug 11	Sat Aug 12	Sun Aug 13
110	108	108	108	110	112
90	88	86	88	88	89
No risk.	Risk to those extremely sensitive to heat.	Risk to those sensitive to heat.	Risk to most people.	Risk to everyone.	
None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme	

NWS Phoenix Heat Dashboard: <https://www.weather.gov/psr/heat>

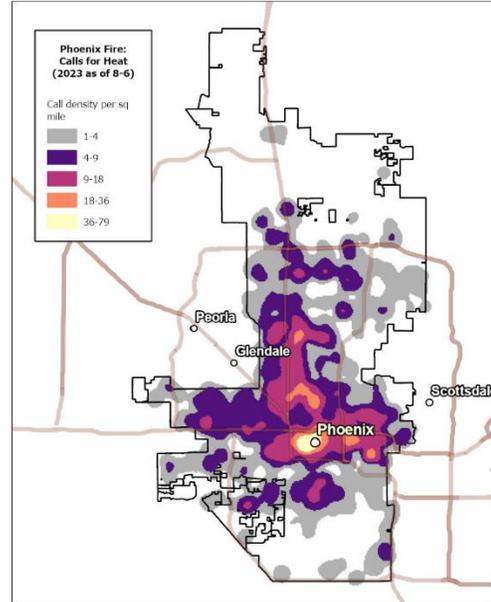
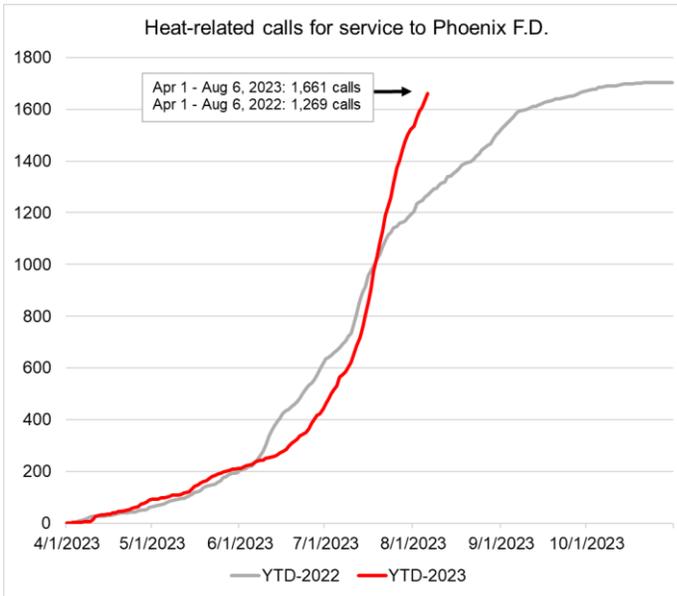
2. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 39 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of July 29, with 312 cases under investigation. Thirty cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and twelve were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 42 confirmed cases, with 282 under investigation. All MCDPH heat-health reports are available online: <https://www.maricopa.gov/1858/Heat-Surveillance>.

HEAT-RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE TO PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT

As of August 6, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 1,661 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is more than **30% higher** than last year's total at this time. Daily heat-related call volumes have dropped significantly since the peak of the monthlong heatwave in July, but still remain high compared to the historical average. Spatially, heat-related calls for service have concentrated in the Central City/Downtown area, along the I-17 corridor between Thomas Rd & Peoria Ave (especially around 7th/19th Ave & Camelback/Indian School Rd and 19th Ave & Dunlap Ave), 24th St & Van Buren Rd, and Sky Harbor airport.



3. DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAM REPORTS

- Heat Relief Network facilities:
 - There are 44 city facilities serving as cooling centers or hydration stations. All regional sites are mapped by MAG: <https://hrn.azmag.gov/>. Free transportation to cooling centers is available 8am-5pm daily through Arizona 211.
 - Phoenix provided additional support for three cooling/respite centers in Downtown Phoenix for August 5–6.
 - The city bus serving as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus has had 1,262 visitors since August 1 and 3,648 since its deployment on July 19.
- Heat Response and Mitigation / Volunteer Programs:
 - The We're Cool program has reached 5,295 engagements across 52 shifts with more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time contributed thus far.
 - The new downtown Heat Relief station located Cesar Chavez Plaza will remain operational through September.
 - The City of Phoenix has distributed 6,792 cases of water (~192,768 bottles) to 34 community partners. An additional 2,484 cases (~60,384 bottles) have been distributed to City departments participating in the Heat Relief Network.
 - Staff have reviewed the second round of applications for the heat relief grant program and are confirming funding agreements with intended recipients.
- City departments reported no experienced or anticipated service impacts over the prior week and continue to promote available resources.

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF NOTE

- Arizona Heat Resilience Work Group:**
 Meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 3pm during the summer
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/89813795064> (first Thursday)
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/83924761104> (third Thursday)
- Regional Cooling Center Work Group:**
 Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/87075809286>
- Phoenix Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission:**
 Next meeting is Thursday, August 10 at 3:00pm
 Agenda topics for this month include SRP and APS sustainability goals
 Meeting link available at:
<https://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/site/PublicMeetings/230810004.pdf>

5. YEAR-TO-DATE WEATHER CONDITIONS (AS OF AUGUST 6)

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	74	73	68.5
110°F days	39 (most all-time YTD)	20	15.8
85°F nights	35 (4th all-time YTD)	31	23.4

Note: Normal is defined based on the 1991–2020 time period.

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

Another Excessive Heat Warning expired Monday night, August 7. No Excessive Heat Advisories, Watches, or Warnings are currently issued for the Phoenix area, but temperatures may approach warning thresholds again for the upcoming weekend.

MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURES (COMPLETED MONTHS)

	Average High (2023)	Average High (2022)	Normal Average High
April	88.0	90.1	85.6
May	96.0	97.6	94.6
June	103.3	106.5	104.4
July	114.7 (new record)	107.5	106.5

Note: Normal is defined based on the 1991–2020 time period.

Questions about this report may be directed to Michelle Litwin, Heat Response Program Manager in the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation: michelle.litwin@phoenix.gov