

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE UPDATE

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022

REVIEWING MONDAY, AUGUST 8–SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Summary

Temperatures continue to trend below seasonal normals. After a brief warmup to near-normal conditions during the middle of the upcoming week, a cool and potentially rainy weekend awaits thereafter. Public health impacts from heat continued to trend downward, but are still accumulating. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health confirmed two additional heat-associated deaths, bringing the confirmed count for 2022 to 44. The Phoenix Fire Department responded to 61 heat-related calls for service, which marked a recent weekly low but kept the annual total above the year-to-date pace from 2021.

Most heat response programs and services are currently scheduled to operate for another 6-7 weeks, through the end of September. Achieving the heat response plan goal of fewer heat-related illnesses and deaths than 2021 will require that all programs and services continue to operate as effectively as possible for the remainder of the warm season. The Office of Heat Response and Mitigation is available as a resource to help departments as needed.

I. RECENT AND YEAR-TO-DATE WEATHER CONDITIONS

A persistent and favorable monsoon pattern has kept temperatures near or below seasonal averages for yet another week. Daily high temperatures only eclipsed climatological normals on one day of the previous seven, as was the case for nighttime lows. Despite the relatively cool week, the same period was exceptionally cool last year with five days in the 90s; this summer (April 1 to present) is now approximately 0.8°F hotter than the same period in 2021. It is now 2.2°F higher than the climatological normal.

Red=highest high Blue=lowest high low breaks ties	Daily High °F	Normal High °F	vs. Normal °F	Daily Low °F	Normal Low °F	vs. Normal °F
Mon 8-8	104	105.4	-1.4	85	84.2	0.8
Tues 8-9	98	105.4	-7.4	76	84.1	-8.1
Weds 8-10	104	105.3	-1.3	84	84	0
Thurs 8-11	105	105.3	-0.3	84	84	0
Fri 8-12	106	105.3	0.7	80	83.9	-3.9
Sat 8-13	104	105.3	-1.3	81	83.9	-2.9
Sun 8-14	101	105.2	-4.2	81	83.8	-2.8

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2022)	Year to Date (2020)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	80	91	75.7
110°F days	20	38	17.4
85°F nights	33	38	27.0

Notes: Year to Date statistics for 2020 are included as a point of comparison to the hottest summer in the recorded history of Phoenix by most climatological measures. Normal is defined based on the 1991–2020 time period.

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

No Excessive Heat Warnings were issued last week. Excessive Heat Warnings have been in effect for 10 days thus far in 2022.

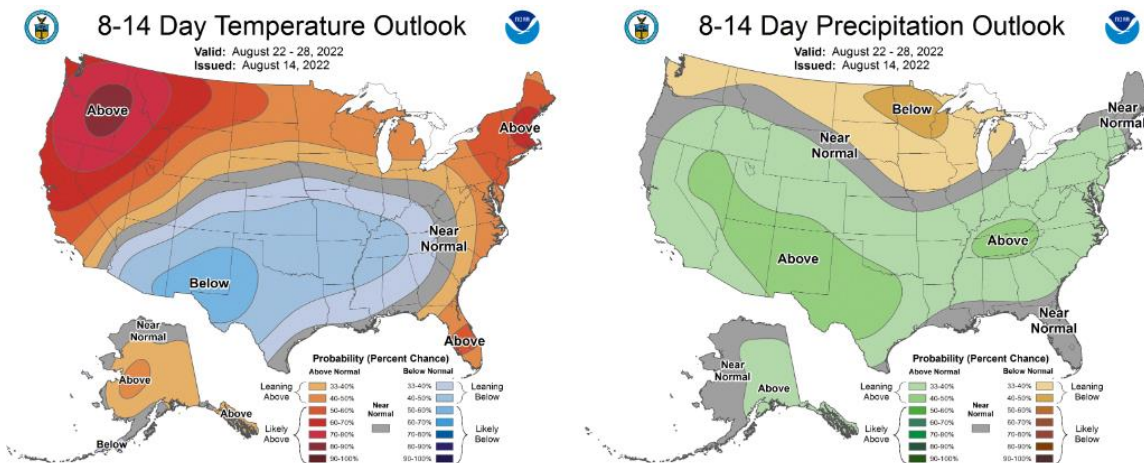
2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Temperatures are forecast to be at or below seasonal averages for yet another week, with every day classified as Low HeatRisk per the National Weather Service. Conditions are favorable for widespread, prolonged, and potentially significant storm and precipitation activity beginning later this week that would keep weekend temperatures quite low by Phoenix standards for mid-August.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
103	104	104	101	98	93	94
84	85	84	82	79	78	80

No risk.	Risk to those extremely sensitive to heat.	Risk to those sensitive to heat.	Risk to most people.	Risk to everyone.
None	Low	Moderate	High	Very High

The early forecast for the following week keeps temperatures below average and precipitation above average for much of the southwestern U.S. The normal daily high for the third week of August is 104°F.



3. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

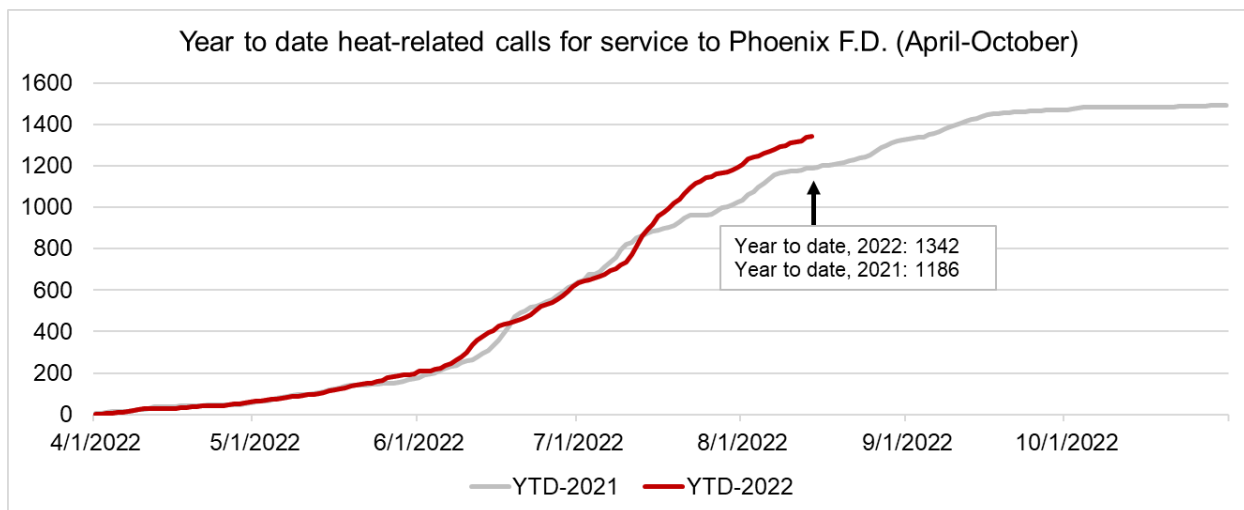
The Maricopa County Department of Public Health is reporting 44 confirmed heat-associated deaths for 2022, an increase of 2 cases from the previous reporting period. As of their August 6 report, there are 287 additional cases under investigation, an addition of 5 cases from the prior week. MCDPH heat-health reports are available online: <https://www.maricopa.gov/1858/Heat-Surveillance>.

HEAT-RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE TO PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Phoenix Fire Department responded to 61 calls for service identified by the dispatcher to be related to heat over the previous week. This was less than the number of calls as the week prior (89 calls, a decrease of about 29%). Advanced life support systems were deployed for 25 of the 61 calls. In 2021, the same 7-day period had 29 calls for service related to heat, with significantly lower temperatures (average high temperature of about 98°F in 2021 and 103°F in 2022).

The highest daily number of calls over the previous week occurred on Saturday, August 13 (high of 104°F), with 21 heat-related calls, which was less than the daily maximum number of calls last week (28 calls). June 19 had the most heat-related calls last year with 43, with a high temperature of 116°F. This year, to date, the highest number of heat-related calls occurred on July 13, with 52 calls and a high temperature of 113°F. (Note: heat dispatch call data typically do not reflect mountain rescues related to overheating and/or dehydration).

Year to date, heat-related calls for service to the Phoenix Fire Department are now running approximately 13% **higher** than 2021.

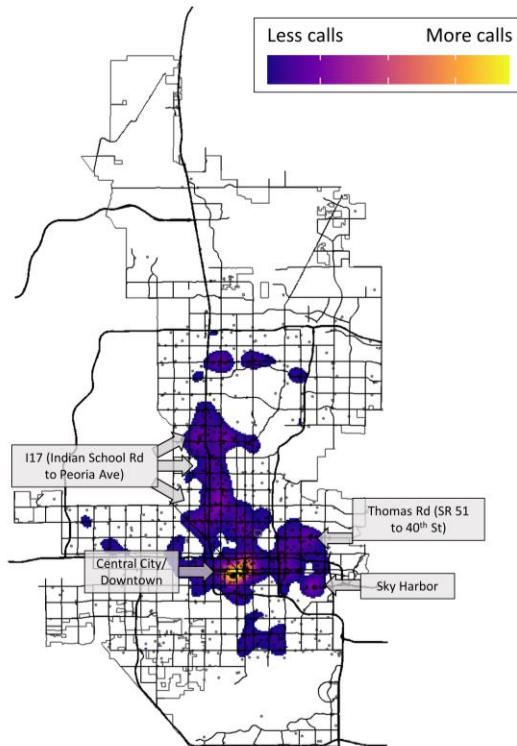


Spatially, since June 1, 2022 to date (through August 14), heat-related calls for service have continued to concentrate in a few areas: the Central City/Downtown area, Sky Harbor airport, and along the I-17 from Indian School Rd to Peoria Ave. Additionally, some more minor areas of concentration are present on Thomas Rd from State Route 51 to 40th St, around 24th St from Thomas Rd to Jefferson St, and near Central Ave between Camelback Rd and Thomas Rd.

Over the past week, calls were highly concentrated in the Central City/Downtown region, with nearly one-third of all calls this past week occurring here.

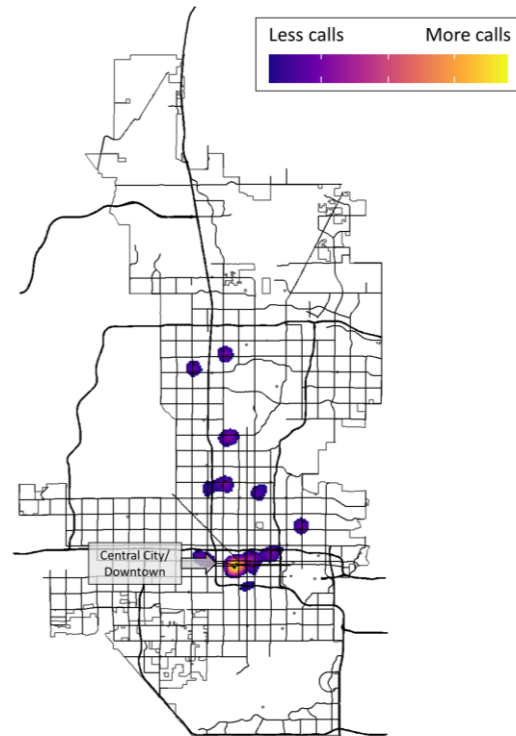
June 1 – August 14

Map of Phoenix Fire Department calls for service related to heat June 1 – August 14, 2022
*Note: Point locations are approximated based on partial addresses or cross streets.



Last week (August 8 – August 14)

Map of Phoenix Fire Department calls for service related to heat August 8 – August 14, 2022
*Note: Point locations are approximated based on partial addresses or cross streets.



A dynamic web map of call density from June 1 to August 14, 2022 is also available online:
<https://asu.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=e8e87b3c56f4428fb6d74716d5066ba0>

4. COMMUNITY SEARCH DATA

PHOENIX 3-1-1

There were 8 inquires made through Phoenix 3-1-1 for August 1–5 that were related to summer heat, an increase of two calls from the week prior. Four calls were related to tree damage and downed trees; other calls were related to air conditioning assistance and swimming pools.

ARIZONA 2-1-1

There were 361 requests for electrical utility assistance fielded by Arizona 2-1-1 over the previous week in Maricopa County, which was a 14% increase from the week prior.

GOOGLE SEARCH

Google staff members are preparing a prototype customized dashboard for monitoring heat-health impacts and search queries related to heat for the City of Phoenix that will be tested and evaluated later this summer. Publicly available Google Trends data for Arizona showed a slight weekly increase in searches related to cooling centers. Searches related to heat exhaustion, heat stroke, air conditioning, swimming pools, and heat warnings all trended downward or remained low.

5. STATUS OF HEAT RESPONSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Program status indicated by color in status column. Updates are provided in the right-hand column as relevant to program planning and implementation.

	Fully operational (24 programs)
	Partially operational (2 programs)
	Planning and preparation (5 programs)
	No action to date (0 programs)

City of Phoenix Heat Response Programs and Services – Summer 2022				
Initiative	Target population	Lead depts.	Status	Updates
FOCUS AREA 1. Situational awareness at City Hall and real-time response				
1.1 First responder services	ALL	FIRE, PD		Normal operations.
1.2 Reciprocal relationship with 3-1-1 and 2-1-1	ALL	OHRM, 311		More search terms and customized analysis will be added in future reports. Staff are following up on selected 311 calls.
1.3 Real-time monitoring of weather and health data with AZ Heat Resilience Work Group	ALL	OHRM		Normal operations. The work group meets biweekly on Thursday afternoons during the summer with participation from multiple city departments.

1.4 Enhancing heat response resources for first responders	ALL	OHRM, PD		Planning continues with OHRM and PD staff. Customized cooling center maps are being prepared for fire stations in highly impacted areas.
1.5 Pilot program with Google search data for public health	ALL	OHRM		Pilot dashboard in development. Additional planning conversations were held during the last week of June.
1.6 Weekly status reports	CITY DEPTS	OHRM		Fifteenth report distributed August 15.
FOCUS AREA 2. Public engagement, communications, and outreach				
2.1 Multi-platform Heat Safety Messaging	ALL	COMMS, OHRM		Summer safety messaging has transitioned to full operational mode and includes new content produced by the Communications team this year.
2.2 We're Cool Volunteer Program	UNSHELTERED, HIKERS	VOL, OHRM, FIRE		59 outreach shifts have been completed, with 49 focusing on street outreach and 10 at City trailheads. More than 2500 contacts have been made through this program. Supplies distributed include water, hats, sunscreen, cooling center maps, heat safety cards, cooling towels, misters, and umbrellas. Community volunteer onboarding and engagement continues to increase.
2.3 Cool Callers Volunteer Program	LIVING ALONE, LIMITED COOLING	VOL, OHRM		Multiple referrals to other City and regional services have been made through the first six weeks of phone calls. Enrollment of additional participants and volunteers continues.
2.4 Let's Talk Heat Booklet	ALL	A&C		Booklets are available for distribution, and a digital version is available on the City website (link available below).
2.5 Investments in Cooling Center Signage	ALL	OHRM, VOL		New signs for cooling centers are being distributed to City facilities and community partners through multiple channels, including the Cooling Center Response Network platform.
2.6 Heat Relief Resource Distribution	ALL	OHRM, VOL		Order fulfillment continues. 50 organizations have been allocated supplies with more than 38,000 individual items committed.
FOCUS AREA 3. Publicly accessible cool space and drinking water				
3.1 Supporting the regional Heat Relief Network	ALL	OHRM, LIBRARY, PARKS, HSD		56 City facilities are participating as cooling centers or hydration stations. Staff from multiple departments are supporting Heat Relief Network participation, including managing water distribution. Staff are filling requests from community organizations for printed maps showing locations of nearby cooling centers and hydration stations.
3.2 Reusable water bottle pilot program	ALL	OHRM, PUBLIC WORKS		Staff are continuing to distribute bottles from an initial inventory of 5,000 reusable aluminum water bottles through the We're Cool Program. A qualifying bid for a larger order has been secured through an RFQ.
3.3 Shade and shelter enhancements at and near the Human Services Campus	UNSHELTERED	HSD		Staff implemented a new cooling tent at 9 th Avenue and Jackson on June 11 that will operate through the summer. An upgrade to the cooling system at the new tent was made in late July.
3.4 New shelter at 28 th St. and Washington St.	UNSHELTERED	HSD		The shelter is fully operating with high demand and use.
3.5 Provision of portable water tanks	ALL	WATER, OHRM		Staff are reviewing public health and safety guidelines for proposed trailers with the health department.
FOCUS AREA 4. Supporting cool and safe home environments				
4.1 Cooling ordinance and landlord tenant program	RENTERS	NSD, HSD		Normal operations.

4.2 Housing repair programs and weatherization	LIMITED HOME COOLING	NSD		Normal operations. Staff continue to develop neighborhood prioritization criteria for expansion of home weatherization with ARPA funding and are exploring collaborative opportunities with NOAA.
4.3 Emergency utility assistance	LOW INCOME	HSD		Normal operations.
4.4 Suspension of water shutoffs	LOW INCOME	WATER		Normal operations.
4.5 Navigating utility disconnection rules	LOW INCOME	OHRM, COMMS		Web content has been disseminated through City platforms and channels. OHRM and 311 staff reviewed existing rules at the start of summer to ensure accurate communication to residents.
FOCUS AREA 5. Supporting cool and safe mobility and recreation				
5.1 Take a Hike, Do it Right	HIKERS	PARKS		Normal operations. Piestewa Peak and Camelback summit trailheads have closed during Excessive Heat Warnings, as planned.
5.2 Adding shade structures at transit stops	TRANSIT USERS	TRANSIT		Normal operation; 76 new shade structures installed thus far in calendar year 2022.
5.3 Valley Metro real-time transit tracking	TRANSIT USERS	TRANSIT		Normal operations.
5.4 ARPA-funded transit passes	NON-PROFIT ORGS AND THEIR CLIENTS	TRANSIT		Normal operations.
5.5 City pools	ALL	PARKS		Pools have transitioned to weekend-only operation for the month of August, as scheduled.
5.6 SunBlock Umbrella Distribution	ALL	A&C		Sun umbrellas featuring 14 designs from local artists have been delivered to Council offices and are beginning to be distributed at public events.
FOCUS AREA 6. Supporting cool and safe workplaces and schools				
6.1 City employee heat safety efforts	CITY EMPLOYEES	HR SAFETY		Normal operations.
6.2 Promoting ADHS School Heat Safety Toolkit	SCHOOLS	OHRM, COMMS		Messaging content is being prepared to share for the start of the 2022-2023 school year later this summer.
6.3 Reducing and reporting workplace heat safety concerns	EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES	OHRM, COMMS, HR SAFETY		Messaging content is being prepared to share throughout the summer, staff are planning cross-departmental meeting to discuss engagement with state agencies including ADHS and ADOSH.

Department key: OHRM – Office of Heat Response and Mitigation; PD – Police; COMMS – Communications; VOL – Volunteer Programs; A&C – Arts and Culture; HSD – Human Services Department; NSD – Neighborhood Services Department.

6. HEAT RESPONSE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



The City of Phoenix Public Transit Department continues improving shade accessibility at City bus stops. Thus far in calendar year 2022, 76 shade structures have been added to locations that previously did not have shade. The department is well ahead of schedule to meet their goal of 80 new shade structures this year! Recent additions include four new structures on Van Buren Street, at 55th, 63rd, 69th, and 73rd avenues. The structures being installed this year reflect a new design that provides more shade coverage for people waiting at bus stops.

7. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT



The next Project Connect event organized by the Human Services Campus will be on Tuesday, August 30. Project Connect brings together many regional service providers to help people get assistance with housing, shelter, benefits, identification, and other basic health and human services. The next event will be held in the parking lot on the northwest corner of Madison Street and 12th Avenue, and services will be provided between 8:00am and 2:00pm. Those interested in volunteering at the event can sign up at hscforms.com/projectconnect.

8. HEAT SAFETY – DID YOU KNOW?

Heat illness is often thought of as a consequence of outdoor exposure, but many cases of indoor overheating occur each year in our region as well. Certain home improvements can make a major difference in keeping temperatures and energy costs low, and significant rebates are available from both APS and SRP to help customers stay cool. Among the current rebates: APS is offering a \$30 bill credit with the purchase of a qualifying smart thermostat, and \$70 for installation of a cool control device. SRP is offering free virtual home energy assessments, and up to \$100 for smart thermostat users. Both utilities offer even larger rebates for other types of home upgrades.

KEY WEBSITES

[City of Phoenix Office of Heat Response and Mitigation](#)

[City of Phoenix Let's Talk Heat Booklet](#)

[City of Phoenix Heat Relief Supply Request Form for Community Organizations](#)

[National Weather Service Phoenix Forecast Office Heat Page](#)

[Maricopa Association of Governments Heat Relief Network](#)

[Maricopa County Department of Public Health Heat-Health Surveillance Program](#)

[Arizona Department of Health Services Climate and Health Program](#)

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