

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE UPDATE

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

REVIEWING MONDAY, MAY 16–SUNDAY, MAY 22

Summary

The hottest weather of the year is in the forecast for the upcoming week, including the first day with High Heat Risk forecast by the National Weather Service (Thursday, May 26). Extra precautions are needed with the confluence of above-normal temperatures and an extended holiday weekend. Measures of community impact are continuing to trend upwards, with increasing daily call volumes related to heat to the Phoenix Fire Department.

Heat relief supplies are being made more widely available to community organizations beginning this week. The We're Cool program has reached 550 points of contact and spread awareness of heat relief resources and services for homelessness. 23 of the City's 31 heat response programs and services are fully or partially operational. The month of May is concluding with two significant enhancements to the City's heat relief programs: the opening of a new heat relief shelter at 28th Street and Washington, and the opening of 14 City pools on May 28.

I. RECENT AND YEAR-TO-DATE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures returned to near-normal conditions for mid-May after the week began with the hottest stretch of the year to date. Monday, May 16 tied for the hottest day of the year thus far with a high temperature at Sky Harbor Airport of 105°F. The highest low temperature of the year was observed on Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19, at 75°F. The average daily high temperature for warm season 2022 (April 1 to present) has been 0.42°F warmer than the same period in 2021 and 4.3°F warmer than the climatological normal for the same period.

	Daily High °F	Normal High °F	vs. Normal °F	Daily Low °F	Normal Low °F	vs. Normal °F
Mo May 16	105	94.4	+10.6	74	69.5	+4.5
Tu May 17	102	94.8	+7.2	73	69.8	+3.2
We May 18	103	95.2	+7.8	75	70.1	+4.9
Th May 19	101	95.6	+5.4	75	70.4	+4.6
Fr May 20	99	95.9	+3.1	71	70.7	+0.3
Sa May 21	93	96.3	-3.3	70	71.0	-1.0
Su May 22	97	96.7	+0.3	71	71.3	-0.3

100°F AND 110°F DAY TRACKER

	Year to Date	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	7	6.5
110°F days	0	0.03

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

No Excessive Heat Warnings have been issued year to date. Excessive Heat Warnings have been issued in the month of May in 3 of the past 10 years.

2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

The first **High Heat Risk** day of 2022 is in the forecast for the upcoming week with temperatures expected to reach or exceed 105°F on Thursday and Friday. Temperatures are expected to slightly moderate through the weekend, with continuing clear skies and no precipitation.

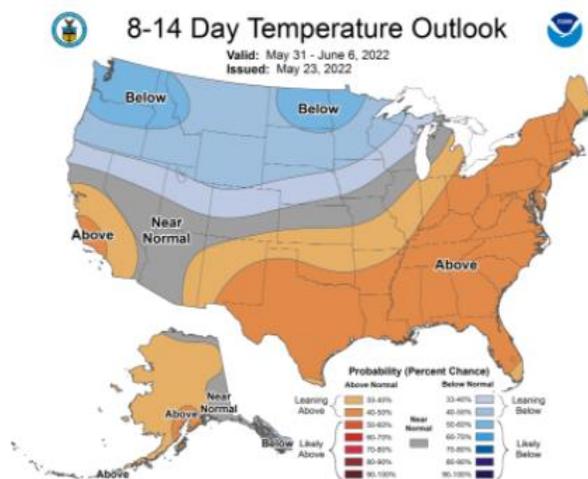
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
97	99	103	106	105	104	103
	71	73	75	77	76	76
No risk.	Risk to those extremely sensitive to heat.	Risk to those sensitive to heat.	Risk to most people.	Risk to everyone.		
None	Low	Moderate	High	Very High		

The following week (May 30–June 5) brings equal chances of above- and below-normal temperatures for most of Arizona as the circulation pattern continues to favor hot weather for the eastern and south central United States.

Above: 32%
Near: 36%
Below: 32%

Probability of the average temperature during next week being above, near, or below normal.

[Get more from the NOAA/Climate Prediction Center](#)



3. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

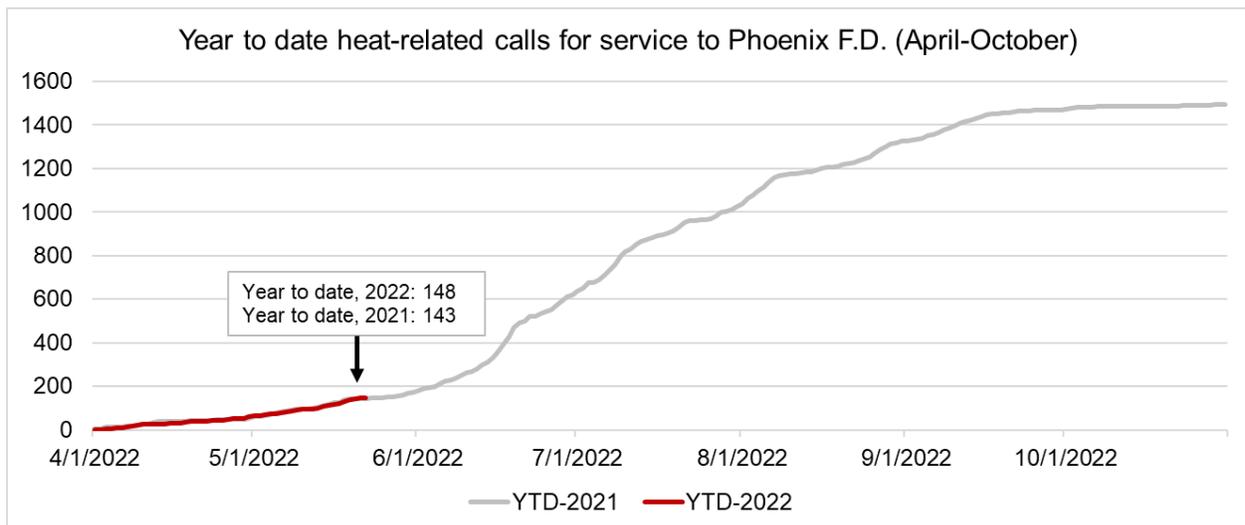
The first heat-associated death of 2022 was confirmed by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health in their May 14 report. This death occurred on April 26, which had a high temperature of 99°F. There are seven additional cases under investigation, compared to three at the same time last year. MCDPH 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 36 calls for service identified by the dispatcher to be related to heat over the previous week. This represented an increase of 11 cases (44%) above the week prior. Advanced life support systems were deployed for 12 of the 36 calls. In 2021, the same 7-day period had 25 calls for service related to heat, with considerably lower temperatures. Thursday, May 19 (high temperature 101°F), had 10 heat-related calls for service, representing the highest daily call volume year to date. June 19 had the most heat-related calls last year with 43, with a high temperature of 116°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 tracking closely with 2021 (see figure below).



4. COMMUNITY SEARCH DATA

PHOENIX 3-1-1

There were 15 resident inquires made through Phoenix 3-1-1 for the period May 16–20 that were related to summer heat, a decrease of 4 calls from the week prior. As in previous weeks, most calls were related to swimming pools, including inquiries about dates and hours for City pools, as well as questions about pool permits and pool inspections. One referral was made to the Neighborhood Services Department Home Repair program after a question about air conditioning replacement.

ARIZONA 2-1-1

Requests for electrical utility assistance fielded by Arizona 2-1-1 reached the highest volume of the 2022 warm season last week, with 162 calls from Maricopa County. This represented an approximately 50% increase over the daily call rate for electrical utility assistance in the month of April.

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 this summer. Publicly available Google Trends data for Arizona continue to show modest increases in searches related to heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and swimming pools, and inquiries related to air conditioning are beginning to increase as well. There is no clear trend in searches related to cooling centers or heat warnings.

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 (13 programs)
	Partially operational (10 programs)
	Planning and preparation (8 programs)
	No action to date (0 programs)
	No information available this week (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		Data from 2-1-1 have been included in this week's report; more search terms and customized analysis will be added in future reports.
1.3 Real-time monitoring of weather and health data with Arizona 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.
1.5 Pilot program with Google leveraging search data for public health	ALL	OHRM		Pilot dashboard in development. Additional planning conversations forthcoming.
1.6 Weekly status reports	CITY DEPTS	OHRM		Third report distributed May 23.
FOCUS AREA 2. Public engagement, communications, and outreach				
2.1 Multi-platform Heat Safety Messaging	ALL	COMMS, OHRM		Summer safety messaging continues to be posted through social media channels and updates to summer and heat safety sections of relevant City websites. Approximately 20 heat-relevant posts were issued on City Twitter accounts again this week, many of which continued to focus on volunteer recruitment. City staff are helping to promote Arizona Heat Awareness week (May 23-27) with the Arizona Department of Health Services and National Weather Service. The Communications Office is holding Summer Safety Media Day on May 26.
2.2 We're Cool Volunteer Program	UNSHeltered, HIKERS	VOL, OHRM, FIRE		9 outreach shifts have been completed season to date, with 6 focusing on street outreach and 3 at City trailheads. Approximately 550 contacts have been made through this program with 700 water bottles distributed thus far. Additional supplies distributed include hats, sunscreen, cooling center maps, heat safety cards, cooling towels, misters, and umbrellas. Staff from OHRM, HSD, VOL, and FIRE, and volunteers from CERT have participated. Volunteer recruitment, onboarding, training, and coordination is ongoing.
2.3 Cool Callers Volunteer Program	LIVING ALONE, LIMITED COOLING	VOL, OHRM		Volunteer recruitment and onboarding is ongoing, with training scheduled for the week of May 23. Telephones for volunteer use have been secured and caller protocol are being developed.
2.4 Let's Talk Heat Booklet	ALL	A&C		Booklets are being printed and are expected to ready for distribution at community events this month. A digital version is available on the City website (link available below).
2.5 Investments in Cooling Center Signage	ALL	OHRM, VOL		Approximately 1000 yard signs for use at City cooling centers and hydration stations are available for distribution; OHRM staff are working with departments to distribute signs to City facilities and community partners.

2.6 **NEW** Heat Relief Resource Distribution	ALL	OHRM, VOL		Heat relief supplies for distribution to community members and community-based organizations are arriving and being prepared for distribution. OHRM and VOL staff are coordinating distribution logistics with staff at the PPE warehouse. Direct distribution of supplies has started through the We're Cool program. The opportunity for community groups to access resources was shared at the Arizona Heat Resilience Work Group meeting last week and will be more widely announced this week once the digital request platform is finalized with ASU
FOCUS AREA 3. Publicly accessible cool space and drinking water				
3.1 Supporting the regional Heat Relief Network	ALL	OHRM, LIBRARY, PARKS, HSD		MAG launched the regional Heat Relief Network map on May 1 (link available later in this document). 42 City facilities are currently participating as Cooling Centers or Hydration Stations, an increase of 5 from the prior week. 14 pools will be added to the network as Hydration Stations when they open on May 28.
3.2 Reusable water bottle pilot program	ALL	OHRM, PUBLIC WORKS		Staff are beginning 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		The new sprung structure "Respiro" opened in March and additional restrooms and potable water supply have recently come online.
3.4 New shelter at 28 th St. and Washington St.	UNSHELTERED	HSD		The shelter opened last week and is onboarding initial clients.
3.5 Provision of portable water tanks	ALL	WATER, OHRM		Staff continue to explore viable options and possible funding sources.
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. Expansion of the home weatherization program is being considered through ARPA funding.
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 is being prepared to disseminate through City platforms and channels. OHRM and 311 staff have reviewed existing rules 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.
5.2 Adding shade structures at transit stops	TRANSIT USERS	TRANSIT		Normal operations.
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		14 pools are scheduled to open on May 28.

5.6 SunBlock Umbrella Distribution	ALL	A&C		Umbrellas are being manufactured using designs sourced from a public art competition. Delivery is anticipated in June.
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 throughout the 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

HEAT RELIEF SHELTER OPENS AT 28TH STREET & WASHINGTON

The City of Phoenix has partnered with Maricopa County, Saint Vincent DePaul, and Community Bridges, Inc., to open and operate a new shelter that will provide day and nighttime heat relief for up to 200 people experiencing homelessness. The facility, owned by the City of Phoenix, is located near 28th and Washington Streets. The shelter is a closed campus, meaning there are no walk-up services and clients need to be referred to the facility by a caseworker. One unique aspect of this project is it prioritizes serving people experiencing homelessness in the surrounding neighborhood. People staying at the facility will have dedicated beds to sleep in, access to three meals each day, showers, and a secure place to store their belongings. Pets are also welcome. St. Vincent de Paul will operate the center and provide comprehensive case management services to each resident. Staff will be able to assist individuals with obtaining identification, accessing medical and financial services and connecting to employment and housing opportunities. (Content from 5/19 City press release)



7. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Arizona Heat Awareness Week is taking place May 23-27, with focused messaging from the state’s National Weather Service Offices, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the City of Phoenix. This year the Governor’s Office has officially proclaimed May 23-27 as Arizona Heat Awareness Week, which catalyzed several news stories promoting heat safety from outlets across the state.



8. HEAT SAFETY – DID YOU KNOW?

The National Weather Service is the agency responsible for issuing Excessive Heat Warnings to our community. The Excessive Heat Warnings often trigger additional messaging and protective actions from partnering agencies, including the City of Phoenix. The National Weather Service Phoenix Forecast Office uses the HeatRisk tool for determining when to issue Excessive Heat Warnings.



The HeatRisk tool uses a combination of information about how hot conditions are relative to climatology, as well as how they compare to critical thresholds for human health based on CDC analysis of hospitalization records. There were 20 days with Excessive Heat Warnings in effect in the Phoenix area in 2021, and the first date with one in effect was June 12. More information about HeatRisk is available online: <https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/heatrisk/> .

KEY WEBSITES

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

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

[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](#)

Questions about the data in this report and suggestions for additional content and analysis may be directed to David Hondula, Director of Heat Response and Mitigation:

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