

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

AUGUST 14, 2023

REVIEWING AUGUST 7 – 13

Summary

- Governor Hobbs declared a State of Emergency for Maricopa, Pinal, and Coconino Counties for extreme heat, effective for the period June 30–July 30.
- Daily record high temperatures will again be challenged this week with a brief surge in temperatures before a major cooldown for the weekend.
- Public health impacts from the ongoing above-average temperatures remain significant.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Temperatures are expected to steadily increase over the next few days with Extreme Heat Risk back in the forecast for Wednesday and Thursday. However, a long-awaited cool down is forecast for the weekend along with elevated chances for precipitation.

Tue Aug 15	Wed Aug 16	Thu Aug 17	Fri Aug 18	Sat Aug 19	Sun Aug 20
112	114	115	111	105	97
91	93	91	88	85	85
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>

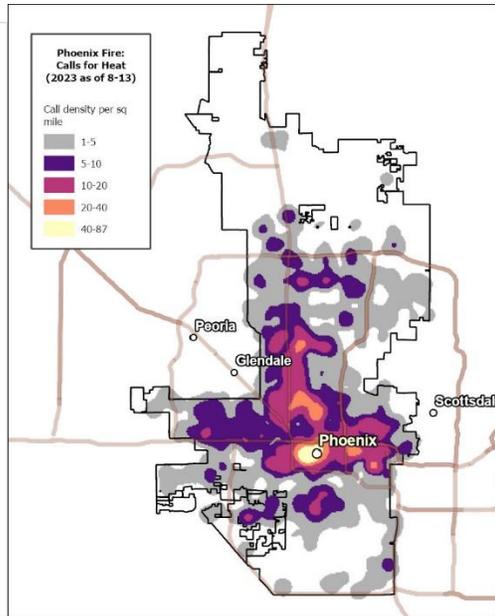
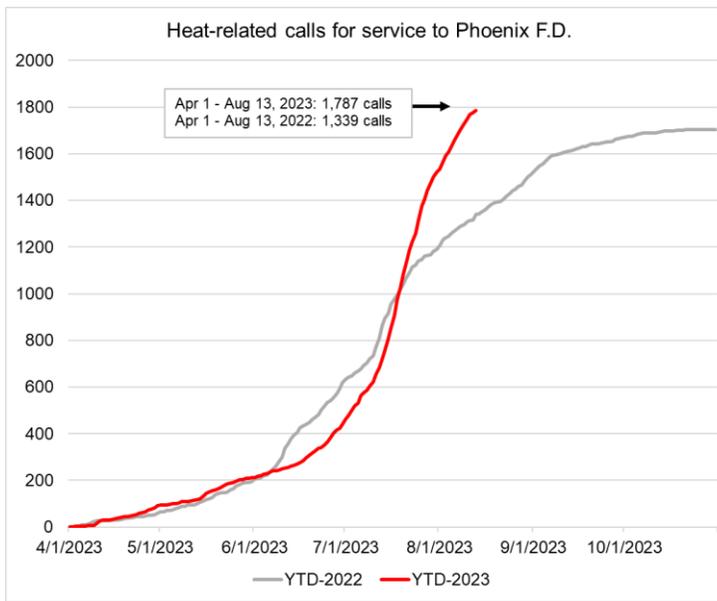
2. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 59 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of August 5, with 345 cases under investigation. 43 cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 17 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 44 confirmed cases, with 287 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 13, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 1,787 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is more than **33% 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. In the past week, calls primarily concentrated in the Central/City Downtown region, Central Ave & Indian School Rd, and 19th Ave & Camelback Rd. Year-to-date, heat-related calls for service have primarily concentrated in the Central City/Downtown area. Other areas of concern include 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 two cooling/respice centers in Downtown Phoenix for August 12–13.
 - The city bus serving as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus has had 2,993 visitors since August 1 and 5,379 since its deployment on July 19. A construction trailer was also opened as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus on August 11.

- Heat Response and Mitigation / Volunteer Programs:
 - The We're Cool program has reached 5,710 engagements across 56 shifts with more than 1,025 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 7,512 cases of water (~238,848 bottles) to 35 community partners. An additional 2,672 cases (~70,592) bottles have been distributed to City departments participating in the Heat Relief Network.

- 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

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Resilience Webinar on Extreme Heat
Wednesday, August 16, 11am–12:30pm MST
<https://www.fema.gov/event/hazard-mitigation-assistance-resilience-webinar-extreme-heat-summerready-2>
- 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:
Typically meets the second Thursday of each month at 3pm
Meetings posted at <https://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/publicmeetings/notices>

5. YEAR-TO-DATE WEATHER CONDITIONS (AS OF AUGUST 13)

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	81	79	74.7
110°F days	43 (most all-time YTD)	20	17.2
85°F nights	41 (T-most all-time YTD)	33	26.6

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

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

An Excessive Heat Warning is in effect for the Phoenix area from 10am on Wednesday, August 16 through 8pm on Thursday, August 17.

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