

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

AUGUST 21, 2023

REVIEWING AUGUST 14-20

Summary

- Remnants of Hurricane Hilary have pushed temperatures for the Phoenix area below seasonal normals and high temperatures below 100°F for the first time since mid-June.
- There is very high confidence that temperatures will again exceed 110°F by the weekend, with a chance of more daily temperature records being broken.
- Heat-health data are showing approximately 30% more cases thus far in summer 2023 compared to the same period last year.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Temperatures near and below seasonal normals will persist for the next few days before another warmup arrives for the weekend. Daily record highs may be threatened as early as Saturday and continuing into the following week as the high pressure system currently impacting the central U.S. shifts westward.

Tue Aug 22	Wed Aug 23	Thu Aug 24	Fri Aug 25	Sat Aug 26	Sun Aug 27
106	104	101	108	111	112
87	84	87	89	89	90
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 89 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of August 12, with 349 cases under investigation. 68 of the confirmed cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 31 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 66 confirmed cases, with 268 under investigation. All MCDPH heat-health reports are available online:

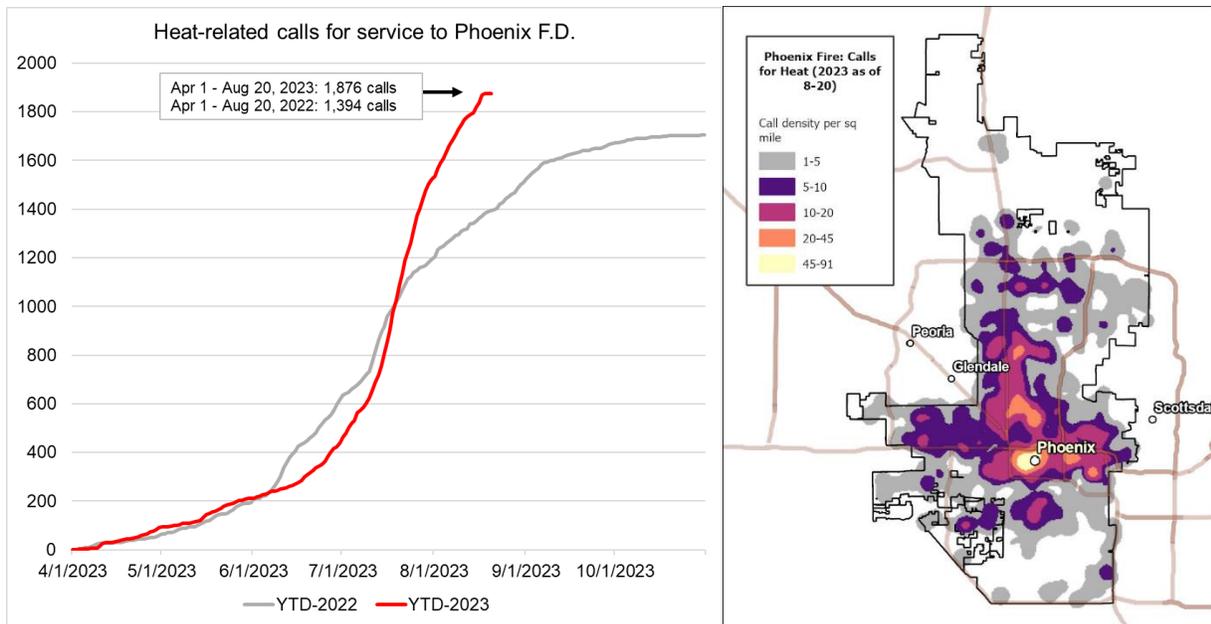
<https://www.maricopa.gov/1858/Heat-Surveillance>.

HEAT-RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE TO PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT

As of August 20, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 1,876 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is more than **35% higher** than last year's total at this time. The vast majority of calls last week (~80%) occurred between 8/15 and 8/17, in which temperatures exceeded 110 °F.

In the past week, calls mainly concentrated in the Downtown region mostly within a half-mile radius of Van Buren and 3rd Ave. 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 19-20.
 - The city bus serving as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus has had 4,334 visitors since August 1 and 6,720 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 5,835 engagements across 57 shifts with more than 1,042 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

- 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 20)

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	87	84	81.1
110°F days	46 (most all-time YTD)	20	18.3
85°F nights	46 (2 nd most all-time YTD)	34	29.4

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

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

No Excessive Heat Watches or Warnings are currently in effect, but there is a reasonable probability that an Excessive Heat Warning will be declared for the upcoming weekend and into the first few days of the following week.

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