

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

AUGUST 28, 2023

REVIEWING AUGUST 21-27

Summary

- An Excessive Heat Warning is in effect through Tuesday evening and daily high temperature records will be threatened or broken on both Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Daily high temperatures are forecast to drop below seasonal normals by the weekend.
- Heat-related health impacts continue to track well above last year's year-to-date metrics.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

A climatologically exceptional high pressure system sits over the Southwest and will continue to drive record-setting high temperatures through midweek. The system will weaken and move to the east beginning on Wednesday, resulting in lower temperatures and increased storm and precipitation probabilities by the end of the week. Temperatures are expected to remain near seasonal normals through the weekend but storm chances will drop to near zero by the start of the following week.

Tue Aug 29	Wed Aug 30	Thu Aug 31	Fri Sep 01	Sat Sep 02	Sun Sep 03
116	113	107	97	101	103
92	91	85	81	83	82
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

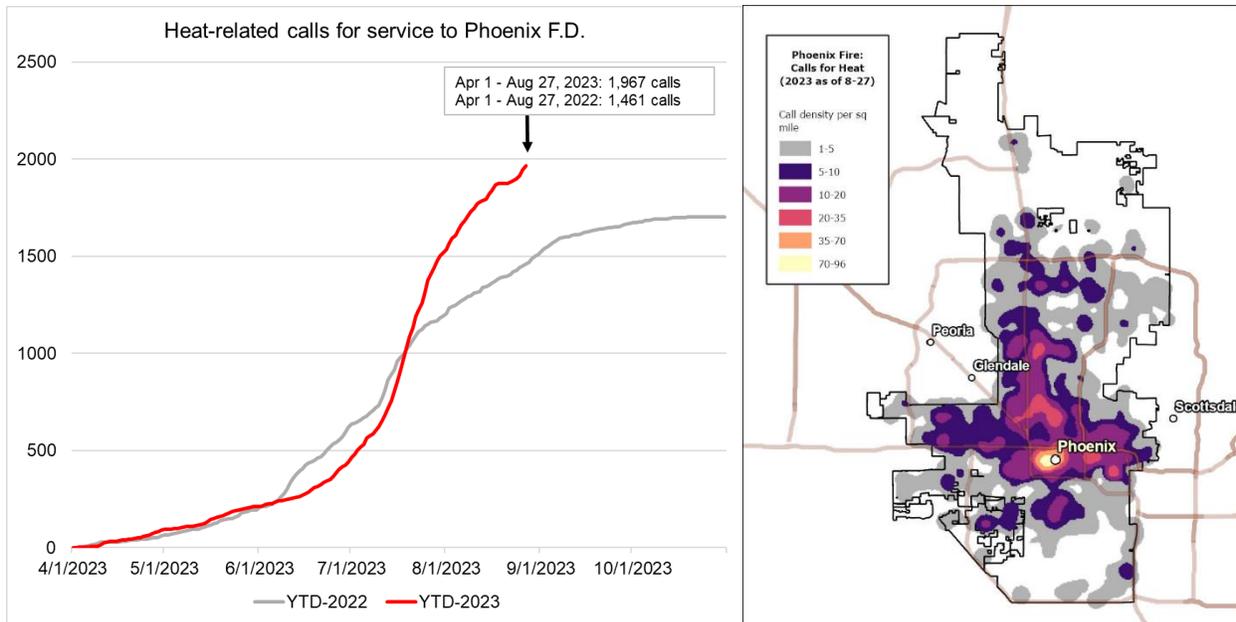
HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 133 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of August 19, with 341 additional cases under investigation. 99 of the confirmed cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 54 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 82 confirmed cases, with 265 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 27, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 1,967 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is **35% higher** than last year's total at this time. The vast majority of calls last week (~75%) occurred between 8/25 and 8/27, in which temperatures exceeded 110 °F.

In the past week, calls mainly concentrated in the Downtown region, mostly within a half-mile radius of Washington St and 2nd Ave. Year-to-date, the highest concentration of heat-related calls for service has been the Central City/Downtown area (accounting for ~12% of calls). The second highest call density has been the I-17 corridor between Thomas Rd & Peoria Ave (especially around 7th/19th Ave & Camelback/Indian School Rd (~6% of calls).



*Note: areas on the map below in pink/orange/yellow indicate areas of higher concentration.

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..
 - The city bus serving as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus has had 5,720 visitors since August 1 and 8,106 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 6,310 engagements across 80 shifts with more than 1,745 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 8,232 cases of water (~284,928 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	93	89	86.9
110°F days	49 (T-most all-time YTD)	20	19.3
85°F nights	51 (2 nd most all-time YTD)	37	32.1

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

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

An Excessive Heat Warning is in effect through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29.

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