

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

REVIEWING SEPTEMBER 5–10

Summary

- Temperatures are forecast to be near seasonal normals for the upcoming week and there are no indications of excessive heat in medium-range forecasts for the rest of September.
- Public health impacts continue to track well above last year’s metrics but are showing signs of improvement as temperatures drop.
- Most heat relief programs and services are scheduled to close for the season on September 30, contingent on weather conditions.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

The weekly forecast calls for temperatures at or below seasonal normals for the remainder of the work week, with a possibility of thunderstorms and rainfall, especially on Tuesday and Wednesday. Moderate HeatRisk is expected to return for the weekend, but there are no indications that temperatures will push very far above the seasonal normal highs of 102–103°F. Medium-range forecasts suggest a continuation of typical temperatures through September.

Tue Sep 12	Wed Sep 13	Thu Sep 14	Fri Sep 15	Sat Sep 16	Sun Sep 17
99	101	102	103	105	105
81	81	79	79	79	79
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>

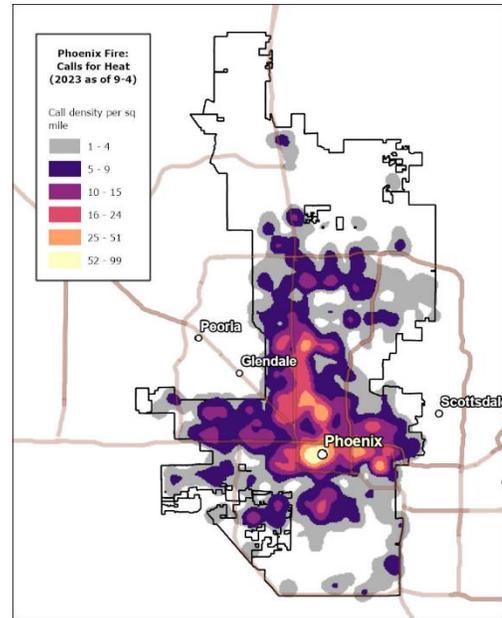
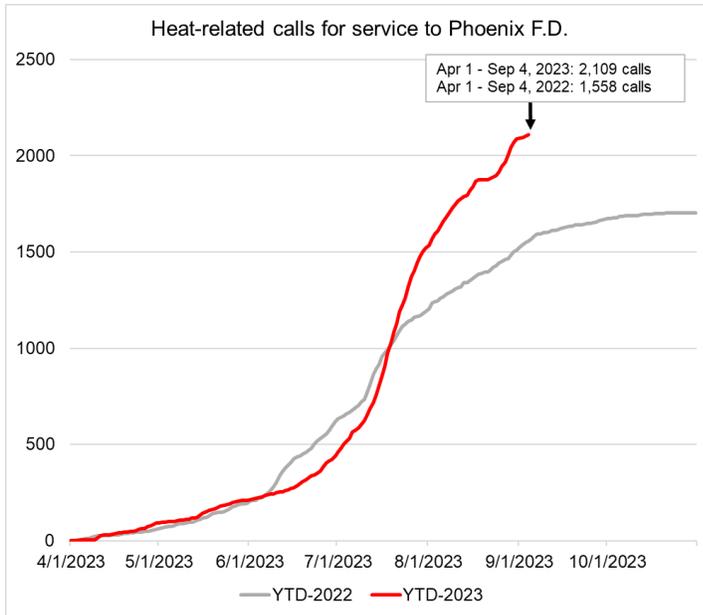
2. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 194 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of September 2, with 351 additional cases under investigation. 142 of the confirmed cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 81 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 153 confirmed cases, with 238 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 September 10, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 2,184 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is 36% higher than last year’s total at this time. Most calls last week (~64%) occurred between 9/8 and 9/10, in which temperatures exceeded 110°F. However, even with the weekend temperature surge, this week’s call volume (80 calls) was nearly half the prior week’s call volume (137 calls). Year-to-date, the highest concentration of heat-related calls for service has been the Central City/Downtown area (accounting for ~18% of calls). The second highest call density has been the I-17 corridor between Thomas Rd & Peoria Ave (~15% of calls), especially around 7th/19th Ave & Camelback/Indian School Rd.



*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. Heat Relief Network programs typically run through September 30.
 - The city bus serving as a temporary cooling center near the Human Services Campus concluded service on September 4. Construction trailers recently donated to the Human Services Campus are now providing heat relief outside of the Campus property. The bus recorded 9,875 visitors over its 47-day deployment period.

- Heat Response and Mitigation / Volunteer Programs:
 - The We're Cool program has exceeded 7,000 engagements across 87 shifts with more than 1,800 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

- U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**
 Hearing on the Effects of Extreme Heat and Weather on Transportation
 Heat Response and Mitigation Director David Hondula will provide testimony
 Wednesday, September 13 at 10am EDT
<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2023/9/examining-the-effects-of-extreme-heat-and-weather-on-transportation>
- 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 SEPTEMBER 4)

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	105	102	97.7
110°F days	55 (new record)	22	20.6
85°F nights	58 (new record)	49	35.9

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

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

No Excessive Heat Warnings are in effect or anticipated at this time.

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
August	109.5 (2 nd highest all-time)	103.5	105.1

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