

# CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

REVIEWING SEPTEMBER 18-24

## Summary

- Phoenix is expected to add several more days to the 100°F tally this week, but conditions are not expected to reach warning thresholds.
- Significant cooling is expected over the weekend and into early next week.
- This will be the final weekly heat response report for 2023; a seasonal summary report will be prepared and distributed in the fall.

## 1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

Temperatures are forecast to be above seasonal normals through the remainder of the work week as high pressure strengthens across the Southwest. However, no new daily records are expected to be set and heat warning thresholds are unlikely to be reached.

Tue Sep 26	Wed Sep 27	Thu Sep 28	Fri Sep 29	Sat Sep 30	Sun Oct 01
105	105	104	102	96	91
77	77	75	73	70	67
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	

A significant cooldown is expected over the weekend and daily highs may struggle to reach 90°F by early next week.

NWS Phoenix Heat Dashboard: <https://www.weather.gov/psr/heat>

## 2. HEAT-HEALTH DATA

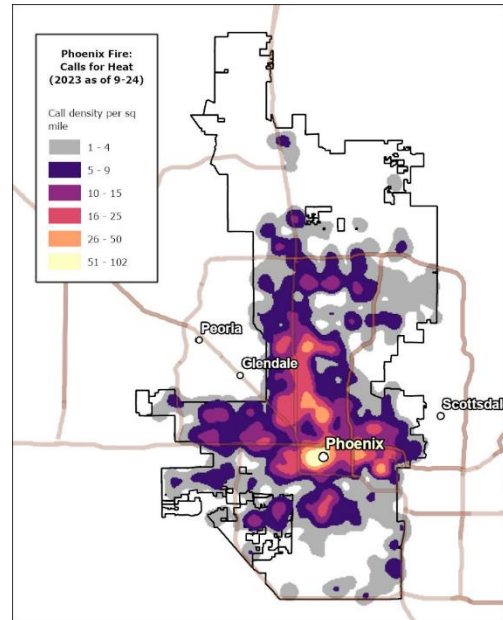
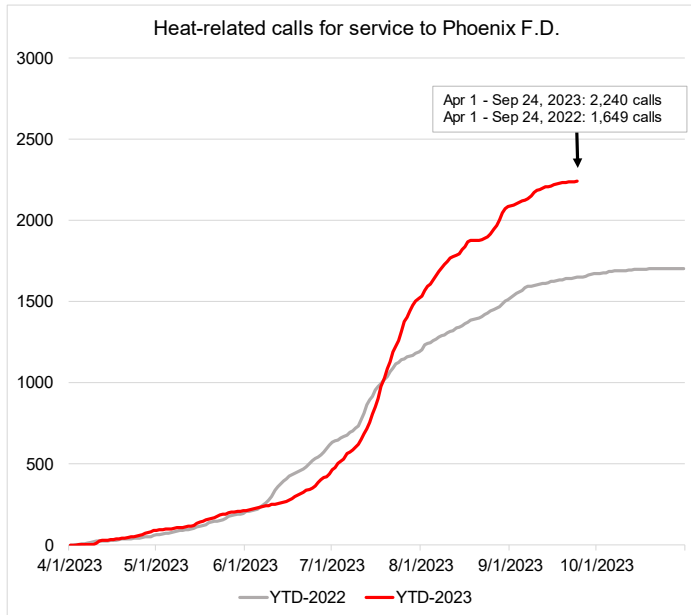
### HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 289 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of September 16, with 262 additional cases under investigation. 211 of the confirmed cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 127 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 209 confirmed cases, with 216 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 24, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 2,240 calls for heat-related illness this summer. This call volume is 36% higher than last year's total at this time. The number of calls has dropped significantly from the summer peak—this week's call volume (16 calls) was the lowest one-week total since early May. 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 (~16% 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.
- Heat Response and Mitigation / Volunteer Programs:
  - The We're Cool program has exceeded 8,805 engagements across 82 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 9,984 cases of water (~397,056 bottles) to 35 community partners. An additional 3,468 cases (~97,056) 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.
- The Office of Heat Response and Mitigation will be coordinating the annual evaluation of the city's heat response initiatives and inviting participation from city departments and external partners beginning in October.

#### 4. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF NOTE

- Arizona Heat Resilience Work Group**  
 Meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 3pm October–March  
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/89813795064>
- 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 24)

##### HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	115	108	105.4
110°F days	55 (new record)	22	20.8
85°F nights	59 (new record)	49	36.6

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 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:michelle.litwin@phoenix.gov)