

CITY OF PHOENIX WEEKLY HEAT RESPONSE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

REVIEWING AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 4

Summary

- Record-setting temperatures are again in the forecast for the upcoming weekend with daily highs expected to exceed 110°F.
- Heat-related health impacts continue to track well above last year's year-to-date metrics.
- The cooling bus deployed near the Human Services Campus concluded its mission with nearly 10,000 visits over 47 days. A new cooling site is available near the bus location.

1. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST

The short stretch of temperatures at or below seasonal normals will come to an end this week. Record-setting temperatures are back in the forecast for the weekend as a high pressure system expands and drifts northward from Mexico. Extreme HeatRisk is currently forecast for Sunday and Monday, and there is a very high probability that the weekend weather will push Phoenix above its all-time record of 53 days at or above 110°F. Temperatures are expected to begin to moderate by the middle of the following week.

Wed Sep 06	Thu Sep 07	Fri Sep 08	Sat Sep 09	Sun Sep 10	Mon Sep 11
106	108	109	113	113	110
82	84	85	87	88	86
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

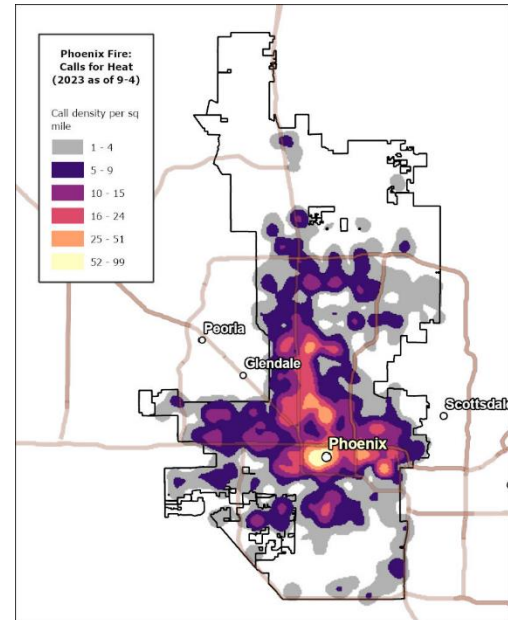
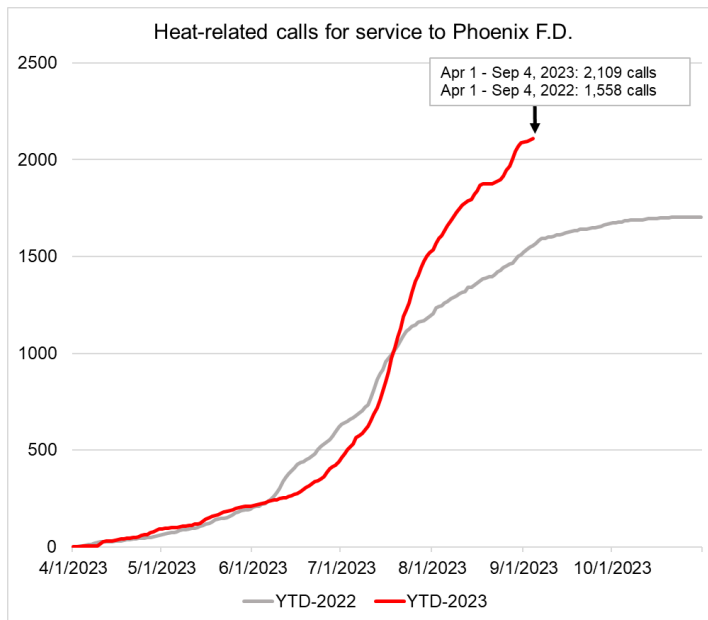
HEAT-RELATED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed 180 heat-associated deaths countywide for 2023 as of August 26, with 330 additional cases under investigation. 135 of the confirmed cases were associated with outdoor exposure, and 79 were among people experiencing homelessness. At the same time last year, there were 11 confirmed cases, with 255 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 4, 2023, the Phoenix Fire Department has responded to 2,109 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 (~72%) occurred between 8/28 and 8/30, in which temperatures exceeded 110 °F. In the past week, calls mainly concentrated in the Downtown region, mostly within a one-mile radius of Van Buren St and 3rd Ave. 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, as construction trailers recently donated to the Human Services Campus are now able to provide heat relief outside of the Campus property. The bus record 9,875 visitors over its 47-day deployment period.

- Heat Response and Mitigation / Volunteer Programs:
 - The We're Cool program has reached 6,890 engagements across 84 shifts with more than 1,780 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 SEPTEMBER 4)

HOT DAYS AND NIGHTS TRACKER

	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2022)	Normal Year to Date
100°F days	99	97	93.5
110°F days	52 (2 nd most all-time)	21	20.5
85°F nights	55 (T-most all-time)	45	34.7

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

HEAT WARNING TRACKER

An Excessive Heat Warning will likely be in effect for the upcoming weekend, beginning either Friday or Saturday.

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