Arizona Heat Safety Resource Guide





Resources and contacts for local health officials and public information officers during the extreme heat season

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Summary

Between May and October, Arizonans may experience Extreme Heat Events (EHEs), which are periods of prolonged high temperatures. This poses a significant public health concern, leading to heat-related illnesses (HRIs) such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and fatalities.

Most heat illnesses occur due to overexposure to heat or overexertion, regardless of age or physical condition. Anyone in Arizona can suffer from heat illness or death without proper precautions. Groups with a higher risk include older adults, outdoor workers, infants, young children, the unhoused, and individuals with chronic conditions. Arizona sees about 3,000 emergency department visits yearly due to heat-related illnesses.

Heat-related illnesses often coincide with stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Urban areas are at greater risk due to the "urban heat island effect," where materials like asphalt and concrete retain heat longer and release it more gradually than vegetated areas. This leads to higher nighttime temperatures and prolonged exposure to heat.

The Arizona Heat Safety Resource Guide was created in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofits, and universities. It aims to provide decision-support tools, resources, and expertise to prevent heat-related illnesses. Additionally, this guide supports the comprehensive All-Hazard Emergency Response Plan, the Heat Emergency Response Plan, and Governor Hobbs' Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan.

Acknowledgments

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the partners who contributed to the creation of the Arizona Heat Safety Resource Guide. Your willingness to share your contact information and provide invaluable resources has been instrumental in our effort to prepare local health officials and public information officers for extreme heat events.

Our sincere thanks go to the National Weather Service, state and local agencies, community-based organizations, universities, and utility companies who volunteered their time and expertise. Your collaboration and dedication to heat safety prevention, education, and response are deeply appreciated.

Without your support, this guide would not have been possible. Together, we are making an impact in ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities during extreme heat events.

Disclaimer

This document uses tables to display contact information and resources. If tables are not accessible to you, a <u>plain text version of the information</u> is available. We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to these important heat safety resources. If you need further assistance, please contact <u>azheat@azdhs.gov</u>, and we will provide additional support.

Objectives

1.1 Extreme heat event: preparedness and response

Extreme heat events (EHE) are a threat to public health, and the associated heat risks are not equally distributed among the population. Public health agencies play a part in developing and managing an EHE response plan.

Ideas to enhance program response include:

- Conduct direct health and environmental assessments of those at greatest risk during EHE.
- Develop plans, resources, and distribution strategies to prepare the community.
- Encourage people to check on their neighbors.
- Collaborate with local agencies local emergency management organizations may have preparedness and response plans you could use to inform your program.

Defining the structure, relationships, and responsibilities of those supporting an EHE notification and response program is essential. Exceptional communication

and coordination are necessary for a unified response, effective resource allocation, and synchronized messages. Additionally, key players often have direct communication channels with the public which could be helpful when distributing information.

1.2 Available resources

Preparedness and Response Agencies and organizations involved with heat safety preparedness, heat emergency response planning, and training for first responders and hospitals are listed in Section 3.2 Public Contacts and Resources.

Heat Safety Resources

2.1 Meteorological forecast

Reliable meteorological forecasts are essential when establishing effective EHE preparedness and response programs. We encourage local agencies to utilize the real-time forecast data from the National Weather Service (NWS) to access EHE forecasting, communication, and response.

The NWS offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, and Las Vegas issue excessive heat watches¹ and excessive heat warnings² to alert people about extreme heat situations. To receive these watches and warnings, you can sign up through **<u>iNWS MDSS</u>** (Interactive National Weather Service Mobile Decision Support Services). Section 3.1 National Weather Service Contacts and Resources offers contact information for each NWS office.

¹ Excessive Heat Watches: Issued two to seven days ahead of impactful heat, often with "Major" or "Extreme" HeatRisk, when confidence is at least 50%. May be upgraded to an Excessive Heat Warning if confidence increases.

² Excessive Heat Warnings: Issued up to five days in advance of (and through the end of) impactful heat, often with "Major" or "Extreme" HeatRisk, when confidence is at least 80%. May precede an Excessive Heat Watch.

2.2 Excessive heat warnings

Effective EHE notification strategies help increase public awareness and reduce adverse health impacts. ADHS issues Excessive Heat Warnings to coordinate and broadcast information about the timing, severity, and duration of EHEs. The messages also include important heat health safety tips and the availability of public cooling centers. Sign up to receive **ADHS Excessive Heat Warnings**.

2.3 Cooling centers

Cooling centers, hydration stations, respite centers, and collection centers are located throughout Arizona. These locations offer residents a free place to cool off and hydrate.

- **Hydration station:** Location that offers drinking water.
- **Cooling center:** Indoor, air-conditioned location that offers hydration.
- **Respite center:** Indoor, air-conditioned location that offers hydration and allows for rest.
- **Collection center:** Location where you can donate clothes, food, and water to the public.

Visit the **Statewide Cooling Center Map** to find the nearest hydration, cooling, respite, and collection stations.

2.4 Public health education

Public health education raises awareness about EHE health impacts. Education empowers people to protect their health and make use of heat preparedness and relief resources.

Section **3.2 Public Contacts and Resources** lists agencies and organizations that offer a variety of promotional materials and educational opportunities (guides, presentations, volunteer registration, etc.).

2.5 Energy bill assistance

Energy bill assistance programs provide financial support to households to improve electricity affordability and maintain a safe environment. However, eligibility requirements and available programs vary. It is recommended to contact federal, state, and local government agencies; or utility companies to inquire about energy bill assistance programs.

Find different organizations and utility companies that offer energy bill assistance programs in section **3.3 Energy Bill Assistance Contacts and Resources**.

2.6 National Weather Service (NWS) HeatRisk

The NWS HeatRisk provides a snapshot of potentially impactful heat conditions over the upcoming seven days based on how above normal the forecast high and low temperatures are, the duration of unusual heat, and humidity (as represented by overnight low temperatures).

Similar to the Air Quality Index (AQI) or the UV Index, HeatRisk is portrayed in a numeric (0-4), color (green, yellow, orange, red, magenta), and categorical (none, minor, moderate, major, extreme) scale. It provides a daily value that

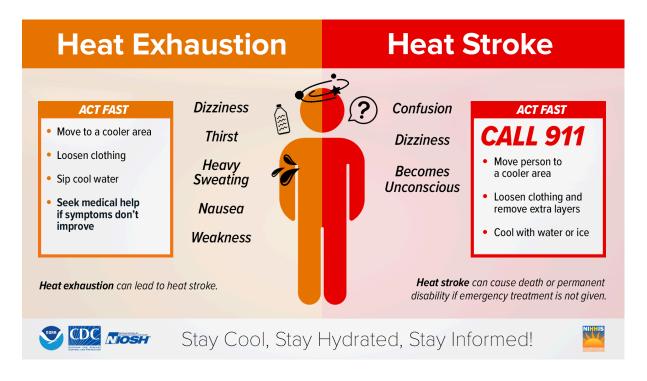
approximates the level of heat risk for any location and identifies the groups that are most at risk.

HeatRisk is complementary to the official NWS Watch/Warning/Advisory program. It's meant to prompt decision-makers and heat-sensitive populations to take action for Major (tier 3) and Extreme (tier 4) heat events.

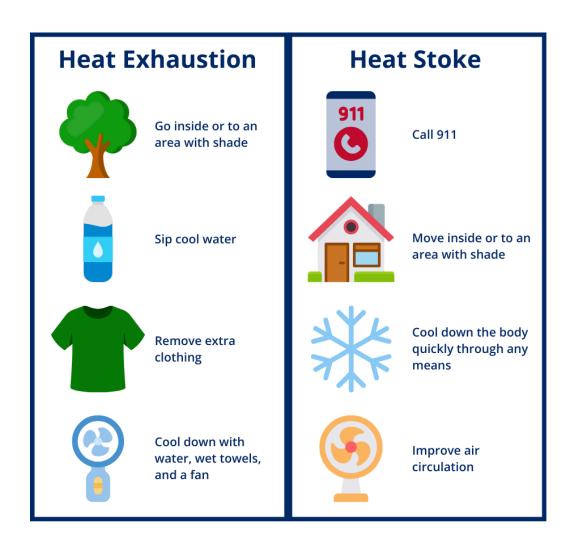
Check out the HeatRisk table in section 4.1 National Weather Service **HeatRisk**. Visit the **HeatRisk Map website** to learn more.

2.7 Heat-related illnesses

Heat-related illness (HRI) occurs when the body can't cool down properly or loses the ability to regulate its temperature (heat balance). The average human body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. If body temperature continues to increase, the person becomes dehydrated, weak, and confused.



Fortunately, there are several ways to treat HRI when we act quickly, such as moving to the shade, drinking more water, and removing extra clothing. Staff should be properly trained to prevent, recognize, and respond to HRIs.



Contacts and Resources

3.1 National Weather Service contacts and resources

Program	Contact information	Websites
Interactive NWS (iNWS)	E: <u>wr.mobile.alerts@noaa.gov</u> P: <u>888-285-0650</u>	 iNWS Alerts NOAA Contacts HeatRisk Map
NWS Flagstaff	E: <u>nws.flagstaff@noaa.gov</u> P: <u>928-556-9161</u>	• <u>NWS - Flagstaff</u>
NWS Phoenix	E: <u>w-psr.webmaster@noaa.gov</u> P: <u>602-275-0073</u>	 NWS - Phoenix Heat Watches and Warnings
NWS Tucson	E: <u>w-twc.webmaster@noaa.gov</u> P: <u>520-670-6526</u>	 NWS - Tucson Heat Safety Tips and Resources
NWS Las Vegas	E: <u>w-vef.webmaster@noaa.gov</u> P: <u>702-263-9744</u>	NWS - Las Vegas

3.2 Public contacts and resources

Statewide public resources

Program	Contact information	Websites
	Arizona State Agencies	
ADHS - Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System (BEMSTS)	David Harden E: hardend@azdhs.gov P: 602-370-5428	 Bureau of EMS & Trauma System Homepage EMCT Continuing Education Courses News, Publications, Conferences
ADHS - Bureau of Public Health Emergency Preparedness	P: <u>602-364-3289</u>	• Emergency Response Plans
ADHS - Extreme Weather and Public Health Program	E: <u>extremeweather@azdhs.gov</u> P: <u>602-364-3118</u>	ArizonaClimate andHealth

	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		Adaptation Plan Cooling Center Map Heat-Related Illness (HRI) Dashboard Heat Toolkits For Older Adults For Outdoor Workers For Schools Excessive Heat Warning Registration
ADHS - SunWise Skin Cancer Prevention Program	E: <u>SunWise@azdhs.gov</u> P: <u>602-364-3851</u>	Sun SafetyWebsiteTip Sheet
ADHS - Syndromic Surveillance Program	E: SyndronmicSurveillance@azdhs.gov P: 602-364-3851	• <u>Syndromic</u> <u>Surveillance</u>

Arizona Department of Emergency Management (DEMA) - Human Services Branch	Adriana Akinwande - Human Services Coordinator E: adriana.gama@azdema.gov P: 602-680-9775	Emergency Management Preparedness
Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) - Heat Stress Awareness	Philip Murphy - Assistant Director E: phil.murphy@azdosh.gov P: 602-542-1661	 ADOSH Training Request Form File a Safety Complaint Prevent Heat Illness (English)/(Español)
	Community organizations	
American Red Cross - Grand Canyon Chapter	Client Relation Service E: <u>602-336-6660</u>	• <u>Heat Wave</u> <u>Safety</u>
Arizona Faith Network	Rev. Katie Sexton - Executive Director E: katie.sexton@azfaithnetwork.org	Heat Relief Program

Salvation Army - Project HOPE	P: 602-468-3818 (Office) Brent Babb - Project HOPE Program Supervisor E: brent.babb@usw.salvationarmy.org P: 602-302-8861	 Heat Relief Flier (Phoenix area) Emergency Disaster Services Project HOPE
	Shelby Dalzotto - Events Manager E: shelby.dalzotto@usw.salvationarmy.org P: 602-267-4193	
	Parks and recreation	
Arizona State Parks Public Information Office	Michelle Thompson - Chief Public Information Officer E: mthompson@azstateparks.gov P: 602-542-1996	 Hiking Safety Recreating Safely in Arizona's Summer Summer Heat Safety Tips
National Parks Service (NPS) Southern Arizona Office	Client Relation Services P: 602-794-3804	 Precautions Against the Heat

		• <u>Plan Ahead -</u> <u>Safety</u>
	Universities	
Arizona State University (ASU) - Global Institute of Sustainability	Dr. Erinanne Saffell - State Climatologist E: erinanne.saffell@asu.edu P: 602-543-3636	 ASU Global Institute of Sustainability Chain Reaction Magazine Map of Maricopa County Cooling Centers State Climate Office
University of Arizona (U of A)	Ladd Keith - Associate Professor of Planning E: ladd@arizona.edu P: 520-621-0804 Heidi Brown - Associate Professor of Epidemiology E: heidibrown@arizona.edu P: 520-626-2262	Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health (SCORCH)

Erika Austhof	
E: <u>barrette@arizona.edu</u>	
P: <u>520-626-3507</u>	

City and town public resources

Program	Contact information	Websites
City of Bullhead - Emergency Management Coordinator	Lt. Andrew Sevillano - Emergency Management Coordinator E: Asevillano@bullheadcityaz.gov P: 928-728-0046	 CodeRED Alerts Social Media Posts
City of Chandler - Community Resources Senior Manager	Riann Balch - Community Resources Senior Manager E: riann.balch@chandleraz.gov P: 480-782-4352	• <u>Heat Relief</u>
City of Glendale - Department of Communications	Joanna Brace - Heat Relief Logistics Coordinator E: jbrace@glendaleaz.com P: 623-930-2042	• <u>Heat Relief</u> <u>Network</u>

City of Lake Havasu - Fire and Emergency Department	Peter Pilafas - Fire Chief E: PilafasP@lhcaz.gov P: 928-855-1141	• <u>Prevention</u> <u>and Education</u>
City of Peoria - Neighborhood & Human Services Department	Lisa Mattox - Community Engagement Supervisor E: Lisa.Mattox@peoriaaz.gov P: 623-773-7207	• <u>Community</u> <u>Resource</u> <u>Guide</u>
City of Phoenix -Cooling Ordinance	City of Phoenix - Landlord and Tenant Program P: 602-262-7210	 Safe cooling for all rooms in rental housing units (English)/(Espa ñol)
City of Phoenix - Heat Relief Grants Program	Michelle Litwin - Heat Response Program Manager E: michelle.litwin@phoenix.gov P: 602-261-8323	• Financial support for heat relief and response effort organizations
City of Phoenix - Human Services Department	City of Phoenix - Emergency Assistance P: 602-534-2433	• Cooling Centers and Summer Safety

City of Phoenix -	David Hondula - Director of Heat	 HeatReadyPHX Home Mitigation and Response Heat Resources and Plans Phoenix Weekly Heat Reports Volunteer Page for Heat
Office of Heat Response and Mitigation	Response and Mitigation E: david.hondula@phoenix.gov P: 602-262-1800 Michelle Litwin - Heat Response Program Manager E: michelle.litwin@phoenix.gov P: 602-262-1800	for Heat Response and Mitigation
City of Phoenix - Pools and Splash Pads	City of Phoenix - Parks and Recreation Department - Aquatics Program P: 602-534-6587	Operation of pools and splash pads

City of Phoenix - Public Messaging and Media Engagement	Keyera Williams - Public Information Officer E: keyere.williams@phoenix.gov P: 602-261-8323	Public Information Office for The Phoenix Heat Response and Mitigation Programs
City of Phoenix -Public Transit	Valley Metro Customer Service E: csr@valleymetro.org P: 602-253-5000	Heat Safety Tips
City of Phoenix - Take a Hike, Do it Right	City of Phoenix - Parks and Recreation Department - Natural Resources Division P: 602-495-5458	Public education outreach to ensure hiker safety and the management of trail closure policies
City of Phoenix - Weatherization Assistance Program	City of Phoenix - Neighborhood Services Department P: 602-534-4444	Improving energy efficiency and comfort

City of Phoenix - We're Cool Heat Relief Outreach Program	Michelle Litwin - Heat Response Program Manager E: michelle.litwin@phoenix.gov P: 602-261-8323	 We're Cool Volunteer Opportunity Page
City of Surprise - Emergency Management Department	Kimberly Campbell - Emergency Manager E: kimberly.campbell@surpriseaz.gov P: 623-222-1340	 Emergency Management Heat Relief Network Cooling Center Map
City of Tucson - Cooling Centers	Aaron Sanchez - Recreation Superintendent E: aaron.sanchez@tucsonaz.gov	• The cooling center locations will be available June 1 through August 31, Monday through Sunday (except holidays) from 12pm-4pm.
Town of Gilbert - Manager's Office	Traci Templeton - Emergency Management Analyst E: <u>Traci.templeton@gilbertaz.gov</u>	Heat Relief Network

	P: <u>480-869-2151</u>	
	Melanie Dykstra - Volunteer and	
	Community Resources Manager	
	E: melanie.dykstra@gilbertaz.gov	
	P: <u>480-503-6000</u>	
Town of Oro Valley	Louie Valenzuela - Emergency	• <u>CodeRED</u>
- Emergency	Management and Safety	<u>Emergency</u>
Management	Coordinator	<u>Alerts</u>
Department	E: <u>LValenzuela@orovalleyaz.gov</u>	
	P: <u>520-229-4796</u>	

County public resources

Program	Contact Information	Links
Coconino County Health and Human Services	Rick Conway - Communications Specialist E: hhscommunications@coconino.az.gov P: 928-679-8627	 Announcemen ts Facebook Instagram X (Twitter)
Gila County Health and Emergency	Carl Melford - Emergency Manager E: cmelford@gilacountyaz.gov P: 928-402-8789	• Ready Gila Alerts

Management Services La Paz County Public Health Emergency Responses and Preparedness	Troy Mead - Emergency Management Director E: tmead@lapazcountyaz.org P: 928-669-8753	• Emergency Preparedness
Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)	Kelli Donley Williams - Deputy Director E: kwilliams@azmag.gov P: 602-452-5060 Cleo Warner - Human Services Planner E: cwarner@azmag.gov P: 602-900-4811	 Heat Relief Locations Heat Relief Network Heat Relief Network FAQs
Maricopa County Department of Public Health	Jessica Bell - Climate and Health Manager E: jessica.bell@maricopa.gov P: 602-771-2732	Cooling and Collection Center Map

Maricopa County Department of Public Health - Climate and Health Program	Jessica Bell - Climate and Health Manager E: jessica.bell@maricopa.gov P: 602-469-4669	• Resources on heat-related illness, heat tips, statistics, water and shelter, water donation and collection map
Maricopa County Department of Public Health - Office of Epidemiology & Data Services	Aaron Gettel - Senior Epidemiologist E: aaron.gettel@maricopa.gov P: 602-372-2612	• <u>Heat tips and</u> <u>statistics</u>
Maricopa County Resident 2-1-1 Services	Solari P: <u>2-1-1</u>	• <u>2-1-1 Arizona</u>
Mohave County Department of Public Health	Scott Wright - PHEP Program Coordinator E: wrighs@mohave.gov P: 928-718-4949	Mohave County Emergency Heat Response and Recovery Plan

Navajo County Public Health Services District	Catrina Jenkins - Emergency Manager E: Catrina.Jenkins@navajocountyaz.gov P: 928-524-4163 Kymberle O'Farrell - Emergency Preparedness Program Manager E: Kymberle.O'farrell@navajocountyaz.gov P: 928-524-4163	Heat Safety Tips Navajo County public information systems
Pima County Health Department	Kat Davis - Division Manager of Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness E: kat.davis@pima.gov P: 520-724-4200	• <u>Heat tips and</u> <u>weather alerts</u>
Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Management	Sobeira Castro - Emergency Management Director E: Scastro@santacruzcountyaz.gov P: 520-375-8000	• Santa Cruz County Heat Alert Notification

Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management	Ashley Ahlquist - Emergency Manager E: web.EM@yavapaiaz.gov P: 928-771-3321 (extension 9)	 Preparing for Extreme Heat (FEMA Factsheet)
Yuma County Public Health Services District	Lynn Harlow-Smith - Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager E: lynn.harlow-smith@yumacountyaz.gov P: 928-317-4626	 Preparing for the heat and heat alerts Cooling Center Map

3.3 Energy bill assistance contacts and resources

Program	Contact information	Websites
Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Customer Service P: <u>866-494-1981</u>	ADES Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Arizona Public Service (APS) - Energy Support Program	Customer Service P: <u>602-371-7171</u>	APS Energy Support Program
Salt River Project (SRP) - Limited Income Assistance Program	Customer Service P: <u>602-236-8888</u>	 SRP Limited Income Assistance Program SRP Financial Assistance
Tucson Electric Power - Public Information Office	Customer Service P: <u>520-623-7711</u>	• Tucson Electric Power Payment Assistance
Wildfire Arizona - Home Energy Assistance Fund	Customer Service E: info@wildfireaz.org P: 602-604-0640	Wildfire Arizona Home Energy Assistance Fund (HEAF)

Appendix

4.1 National Weather Service <u>HeatRisk</u>

Category	Risk of heat-related impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.