

STATE OF ARIZONA

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2023-16

Extreme Heat Planning and Preparedness

WHEREAS, significant and extended durations of extreme heat can lead to an increase in heat-related illness, emergency room visits, and loss of life. From 2012 to 2015, there were approximately 100 heat-related deaths annually in Arizona. Since then, that number has grown significantly each year. In 2022, there were a record 671 deaths—almost seven times greater than a decade earlier; and

WHEREAS, Arizona temperatures continue to set records in 2023, with a heat wave that resulted in temperatures over 110° for 30 consecutive days in some communities. Temperatures are expected to rise above 110 degrees again next week, further increasing the risk of heat-related illness and death; and

WHEREAS, as of August 9, 2023, Maricopa County alone has experienced 59 confirmed heat-related deaths—20 of which occurred in the last week. And as many as 345 additional deaths in Maricopa County are being investigated as potential heat-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, functioning air conditioning can become a matter of life and death during times of excessive heat, and increased energy usage raises monthly bills for consumers, forcing families to make difficult decisions between paying their energy bill or keeping food on the table; and

WHEREAS, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families pay utility bills. However, this program was originally designed for cold weather states and was not designed to support states experiencing extreme summer energy cycles, resulting in Arizona receiving the second lowest allocation of LIHEAP dollars per capita across the nation; and

WHEREAS, coordination across government jurisdictions and with Arizona's many utility providers and energy cooperatives is necessary and appreciated in order to closely monitor grid resilience and prevent power outages that would result in significant harm to Arizona's communities; and

WHEREAS, my Administration has directed stimulus funds to extend the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and to prevent evictions, particularly during the hottest months; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health implemented a precedent-setting program in July of 2023 to combat heat-related illness and injury in the workplace and to ensure safe working environments for all Arizonans, by emphasizing the need for water, rest, and shade in at-risk workplaces; and

WHEREAS, a statewide network of cooling centers, heat relief, and hydration stations is imperative in providing the public with resources and respite from extended periods of extreme heat, and my Administration has provided financial resources to expand services throughout these networks; and

WHEREAS, the response to such an unprecedented weather event requires more robust and more accurate data to successfully allocate and manage resources, and develop effective strategies to keep Arizonans safe; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to continue acting to ensure that the residents of Arizona remain safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2023, I declared a state of emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303(D) to support the response of local jurisdictions to the extreme heat.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of this State, including Article 5, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. § 41-101, hereby:

1. **Require the Director of the Governor's Office of Resiliency to:**
 - a. **Coordinate and lead an interagency effort to develop an Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan by March 1, 2024 to ensure the State of Arizona is prepared to respond to and recover from extreme heat in future years. The Plan shall include proposals to update the 2015 Extreme Weather, Climate, and Health Synthesis Report with university partners and recommendations on how to engage with federal partners.**
 - b. **Develop legislative proposals to protect the elderly, children, the medically vulnerable, and other impacted communities from extreme heat.**
 - c. **Successfully administer \$13.3 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds to prevent outages and improve grid resilience across the State.**
 - d. **Create and lead an Interagency Resiliency Forum (the "Forum"), consisting of representatives from State agencies who are Assistant and Deputy Director level or above. The Director of the Office of Resiliency will be responsible for determining the composition and structure of the body and the frequency of its meeting. The Forum will support efforts to respond to extreme heat and other State resiliency and sustainability efforts.**
 - e. **Work with State and local agencies and external partners to collect innovative solutions to address extreme heat and provide cooling relief to Arizonans.**
2. **Require the Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting to allocate financial resources to assist with response and recovery efforts to the current extreme heat crisis across the State.**
3. **Require the Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services to:**
 - a. **By March 1, 2024, provide findings and recommendations in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan, including on additional resource needs and recommended statutory changes, to ensure long-term readiness for addressing extended periods of extreme heat in future years.**
 - b. **Develop additional data requirements to ensure successful allocation and management of resources for responding to extreme heat, including emergency room visits, heat-related death and illness, heat-related workplace incidents, morgue capacity, distribution of cooling and heat relief centers, and other information to ensure the people of Arizona are safe and healthy from extended extreme heat waves.**
 - c. **Develop proposals to centralize and formalize coordination for cooling centers and heat relief facilities into a network that can be relied upon for years to come.**
 - d. **Develop public awareness materials to promote best practices in managing extreme heat that can be made available to workplaces, schools, and congregate care facilities.**
4. **Require the Director of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, by March 1, 2024, to include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan for how best to coordinate resources and structure emergency responses to incidents of extended extreme heat. The plan shall include recommendations on how best to quantify the impacts of a heat-related emergency, as well as proposals for defining future heat-related incidents, including the overwhelming impact on local communities, and the acute nature of the incident using expertise from weather experts and other actuarial science professionals, as needed.**
5. **Require the Director of the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) to:**
 - a. **Develop a personnel process to allow State of Arizona employees to provide staffing at cooling centers and to provide heat relief to impacted communities. The process should allow State of Arizona employees who choose to serve at a cooling center or other State-approved heat relief efforts to receive regular duty pay following written approval from their supervisor.**

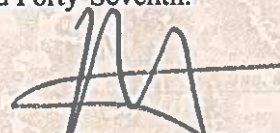
- b. Amend the State of Arizona Accounting Manual (SAAM) to allow for the purchase of necessary supplies and services to carry out the requirements of this Executive Order.
 - c. Assess and make recommendations for use of ADOA owned and managed facilities to mitigate effects of extreme heat to the public where appropriate, and collaborate with the ADOA and ADOT Building System agencies for the same.
 - d. By March 1, 2024, include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan for available State-owned assets and equipment that could be used to assist in heat relief both in and around the Governmental Mall, and across the State.
6. Require the Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office, by March 1, 2024, to include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan on coordination with utility companies and energy co-operatives on methods to keep Arizonans cool, safe, and healthy during periods of extended extreme heat.
 7. Require the Director of the Department of Economic Security, by March 1, 2024, to include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, its utilization, impact, and any recommended policy changes that would improve effectiveness or efficiency of the program.
 8. Require the Director of the Department of Housing, by March 1, 2024, to include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan about the importance of housing, especially manufactured housing, in keeping people cool and safe.
 9. Require the Director of the Industrial Commission of Arizona, by March 1, 2024, to include information in the interagency Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan on the impact and results of their newly created state emphasis program to ensure the availability of water, rest, and shade in at-risk workplaces.
 10. This Executive Order shall not confer any legal rights or remedies upon any person and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any action or inaction of a State Agency, officer, employee, or agent thereof.
 11. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.
 12. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature, and shall remain in effect until repealed, replaced, or rescinded by future Executive Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eleventh day of August in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Three and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Seventh.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

