



STATE OF ARIZONA EXTREME HEAT FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

Governor Hobbs is taking action to protect Arizonans from the historic heat wave, including the creation of a precedent-setting workplace safety program to address heat in high risk industries, ensuring housing stability for Arizonans through benefit programs like LIHEAP and ERAP, and a historic \$210 million investment in affordable housing and fighting homelessness, and direct coordination with utilities to better address heat response. Additionally, the administration provided \$50,000 toward expanding cooling center services. The Governor is committed to taking a holistic and comprehensive approach to ensuring Arizonans stay safe from the heat. These are just a few of the actions taken and resources available to Arizonans:

THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S ACTION PLAN

Office of Resiliency:

- Working with utility companies to identify additional steps that can be taken to protect Arizonans. They are convening a meeting next week to discuss potential options and solutions.
- Will administer \$13 million in stimulus funds to prevent outages and improve grid resilience across Arizona.
- Will administer approximately \$80 million in federal rebates and grants for energy efficiency projects to decrease Arizonans' monthly energy costs.

Arizona Department Of Administration:

- The State is opening one cooling center and one cooling stop in the Governmental Mall. The first will be located at 1818 W Adams St, the second is a portable, cooled shipping container at 1801 W Madison St.
- The State has organized an enterprise-wide [financial donation drive](#) for heat relief during the month of August with the Human Services Campus and the Salvation Army to benefit people experiencing homelessness throughout Arizona. Nearly \$12K has been raised in the first week of the campaign.
- As State facilities and grounds staff go about their routine support activities in the Governmental Mall, staff will make water available and provide directions to the local heat relief resources.

Department of Economic Security:

- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps Arizona families pay their heating/cooling bills, minimize crises, and make energy bills more affordable through weatherization assistance.
 - Eligible households may receive up to \$1,200 once per year.
 - Additionally, applicants may receive up to \$1,000 in supplemental benefits for applicable crisis situations in a 12-month period.
- Directed funds to extend Emergency Rental Assistance to prevent evictions during the hottest months.

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs:

- Working with FEMA to quickly process applications from the City of Phoenix for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant and expanded cooling center generator capacity.
- DEMA is working closely with county and tribal emergency response partners to monitor the status of community lifelines.
- Sharing hydration and cooling center locations and heat relief resources on the Arizona Emergency Information Network [website](#) and social media [channels](#).

Department of Health Services:

- Arizonans can learn more about the resources available to stay safe in the heat on the [Extreme Weather and Public Health](#) webpage and a [statewide map](#) of cooling centers and heat relief resources.
- DHS provided the [Arizona Faith Network](#) with \$50,000 to help fund and expand cooling centers throughout the Valley.
- DHS has released several blogs this summer to Valley Interfaith Network about the heat and to connect Arizonans with critical resources: [Heat + Monsoon](#), [Heat Safety](#), and [Start of Monsoon Season](#).
- Provides this heat relief and prevention fact sheet in multiple languages: [It's Hot Outside Brochure](#) [[Dari](#)] [[Español](#)] [[Kinyarwanda](#)] [[Pashto](#)] [[Rohingya](#)] [[Swahili](#)]
- Developed and distributed [excessive heat warnings](#).
- Developed [older adult](#), [outdoor worker](#), and [school](#) toolkits.
- Updated the ADHS All-Hazard Emergency Response Plan and the Extreme Heat Response appendix.
- Provided refugee resettlement agency outreach and heat brochures to refugees in 5 common refugee languages.
- Provided sunscreen and cooling towels to Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.
- Partnering with Yuma County to create a cooling center map.
- Alerted counties about available naloxone kits that can be provided at cooling stations.

Arizona Department of Public Safety

- Highway Patrol has a policy for all Roadside Motorist Assist units (RMA) to supply water and A/C to those who have vehicle problems, are involved in a collision, or are stranded on the side of the road.

Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry:

- As negotiated in the FY24 budget, deploy \$35 Million in HVAC updates to ensure that prison facilities can stay cool and safe.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION FAQ

What does the Declaration of Emergency Mean? And what is next?

- The Declaration of Emergency helps get state resources to impacted jurisdictions. The emergency management process is always a backwards looking process, where those events are identified after they have occurred and emergency declarations are put in place to allow reimbursement of costs that occurred during that period. In the month of July 2023, 30 days of heat that surpassed 110 degrees caused death and strain on public resources. Government entities that qualify can submit receipts for allowable expenditures during that time and they can be reimbursed from state emergency and other funds.
- The Governor also issued Executive Order 2023-16, which creates two new cooling centers on the Capitol Mall, ensures there are financial resources that can be used anywhere in the State, and directs state agencies to build a comprehensive plan to approach extreme heat in future years. That plan will be submitted March 1, 2024 in advance of next year's heat season. The plan will:
 - Include centralized and formalized networks for cooling centers and heat relief coordination around the State
 - Propose policy changes and legislative proposals that will make AZ more prepared in future years
 - Identify resource needs across the State, as well as potential sources of funds to address those resource needs
 - Identify ways to ensure Arizona is receiving sufficient Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dollars, and that those dollars are being used efficiently and effectively

Why is the Declaration dated in the past?

Most emergency declarations provide access to financial resources to reimburse local governments for money they spent responding to, or recovering from, a serious incident that occurred in the past. Because each declaration requires a specific emergency incident to be defined with a start date and a stop date, the State is defining this declaration based on the National Weather Service's Extreme Heat Advisory being declared for 30 consecutive days over the period of June 30 through July 30, 2023. The Administration recognizes, however, that extreme heat will continue to impact communities in the weeks to come and in future years. The EO signed today will ensure the State is prepared to mitigate and respond to extreme heat in the long term.

Why does the Declaration only mention 3 counties?

Every emergency declaration requires a specific incident to have occurred which created the emergency, defined with a start date and a stop date. The State is defining this emergency declaration based on the National Weather Service's Extreme Heat Advisory being declared for an unprecedented 30 consecutive days over the period of June 30 through July 30, 2023. Extreme Heat Advisories were only declared for a consecutive 30 days in three Arizona counties - Maricopa, Pinal, and Coconino. The Administration recognizes, however, that extreme heat is impacting communities across Arizona. The Executive Order signed today addresses that in two ways. First, we are directing OSPB to ensure there are financial resources available to address heat across the entire State, and not just in the three counties with 30 consecutive days of Extreme Heat Advisories. Second, we are directing DEMA to work with weather experts and actuarial scientists to better define heat events in emergency response frameworks in future years.