

CENTERS FOR DISEASE

NWS-CDC Joint Webinar on Experimental NWS HeatRisk

Kimberly McMahon - NWS Public Program Manager **Mike Staudenmaier** - NWS HeatRisk Developer **Ambarish Vaidyanathan** - CDC Senior Health Scientist

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Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being **recorded** and will be publicly posted along with the Presentation PDF after the webinar. *By attending this webinar, you consent to the recording of your likeness including voice and/or webcam images.*
 - <u>https://www.weather.gov/wrn/calendar</u>
- All lines will remain muted throughout the presentation.
- Please use the **Question Box** to ask questions, which will be answered at the end during the Q&A.

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Opening Remarks

Michelli Mainelli

Deputy Director NWS, NOAA



Aaron Bernstein, MD, MPH

Director NCEH/ATSDR, CDC

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Today's Presenters



Mike Staudenmaier

Division Chief - WRH Science and Technology Infusion Division, NWS, NOAA



Kim McMahon

Public Weather Services Program Manager, HQ NWS, NOAA



Ambarish Vaidyanathan, Ph.D

Senior Health Scientist - Climate and Health Program, National Center for Environmental Health, CDC

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Why Heat Matters

 Heat is the leading weather-related killer

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- 2023 was the warmest year on record, with the top 10 warmest years on record occurring from 2014-2023
- Studies show heatwaves trending hotter, longer, and more frequent with less overnight relief



*Due to an inherent delay in the reporting of official heat fatalities in some jurisdictions, this number will likely rise in subsequent updates. *The fatalities, injuries, and damage estimates found under Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone events are attributed only to the wind.

Agency Collaboration

CDC and NOAA National Weather Service worked together to develop a service that contextualizes heat forecasts with data relevant public health data.







Climatological Temperature Data

Health-based temperature thresholds

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Who is Most At Risk to Extreme Heat

- Children and Older Adults
- People who are Pregnant
- People with Disabilities
- People with Chronic Health Conditions
 - First Responders
 - Outdoor Workers
 - People exercising or doing strenuous activities outdoors
- People who lack access to cooling
 - People who lack housing and/or quality housing
 - Pets and Service and Support Animals



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NWS Forecast Tools to Assess Heat

Heat Index

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outside at 3.1 mph, wearing trousers and short sleeved shirt

Wet Bulb Globe **Temperature**

Disclaimer: Always check with local officials for appropriate actions and activity levels. Experienced heat stress will depend upon duration and intensity of activity and personal health and vulnerability. Threat Level WBGT by Region (oF



Heat stress in context for healthy, active outdoor communities.

- More Complex: T + RH + wind + solar radiation
- High levels of outdoor physical activity

HeatRisk (experimental)



Risk of heat related impacts in climatological context with CDC heat-health information.

- Impacts-based: MaxT + MinT + CDC heat-health data
- Spectrum of heat-health impacts for all populations



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What is HeatRisk?

A numeric/color-based heat service that serves as a *framework* for leveraging peer-reviewed heat-health science and data consistently across the CONUS

| 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 individua sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possib 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. Impact 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 affect: anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure. |



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Kind of like AQI...



Excellent Geographical Coverage

But for Heat!

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HeatRisk Basic Tenets

- Communities adapt to their local climatology
- **Acclimation** to heat is important
- There is some level where heat is dangerous, no matter the time of year
- Everyone has different heat tolerances no single threshold works

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HeatRisk Basic Tenets

- The **95th percentile** approach is used to identify excessive heat
- Temperature is the **first order driver** for heat impacts
- Humidity can be roughly estimated by temperature ranges and min temps
- Framework rules are **applied nationally** to remain consistent





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HeatRisk Considerations

What does it take into account?

- How significantly above normal high and low temps are for a location (24h period, 7 days out)
- Time of the year

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- Duration of unusual heat
- Overnight relief
- If temperatures are at high enough levels to pose an elevated risk for heat complications (based on CDC heat-health thresholds)



CDC-NWS Collaboration





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Data Sources and Analytical Framework

Code-based (ICD-9 / ICD-10) assessment of heat-related burden

| L FILE NO. | | | Read Plant Middle 1 and | | 0.E.W | STATE FILE NO. | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| . DECEDENT'S LEGA | AL NAME (| Include AKA | s if any) (First, Middle, Last | 2. | SEX | 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | |
| a. AGE-Last Birthday | 4b. UND | ER 1 YEAR | 4c. UNDER 1 DAY | 5. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo/Day) | Yr) 6. BIRTH | IPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) | |
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| in a second | | | | | | Underlying cause | |
| Sequentially list condi if any, leading to the of listed on line a. Enter | tions, cause the | b | Due to (o | r as a consequence of): | | Underlying cause information | |
| Sequentially list condi- if any, leading to the of listed on line a. Enter UNDERLYING CAUS (disease or injury that initiated the events re- in death) LAST | tions, cause the E sulting | b c d | Due to (o | r as a consequence of): or as a consequence of): | | Underlying cause information | |
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https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/DEATH11-03final-ACC.pdf

• The primary or underlying reasons (and contributing factors) for adverse health outcomes.

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Data Sources and Analytical Framework

of heat-related burden U.S. Standard Certificate of Death AL FILE NO STATE FILE NO DECEDENT'S LEGAL NAME (Include AKA's if any) (First, Middle, Last) a. AGE-Last Birthday 4c. UNDER 1 DAY DATE OF BIRTH (Mo/Dav/Yr) 6. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Enreign Country (Years) Minutes Part I CAUSE OF DEATH (See instructions and examples) pproximate nterval 32. PART I. Enter the chain of events-diseases, injuries, or complications-that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiar Onset to death arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Enter only one cause on a line. Add additional lines if necessary IMMEDIATE CALLSE /Final disease or condition resulting in death Due to (or as a consequence of) f any, leading to the cause Due to (or as a consequence of) isted on line a. Enter the UNDERLYING CAUSE disease or injury that Due to (or as a consequence of nitiated the events resulting death) LAST Part II ing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in P INGS AVAILABLE TO F DEATH? O Yes O No DID TOBACCO LISE CONTRIBUTE

Code-based (ICD-9 / ICD-10) assessment

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/DEATH11-03final-ACC.pdf

• The primary or underlying reasons (and contributing factors) for adverse health outcome.

Statistical Attribution Approach

Heat-Mortality Relationship



• Generate relationships between temperature and adverse health outcomes using a statistical framework.

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Data Sources and Analytical Framework

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Data Sources

- Health data: CDC's National Vital Statistics System for mortality data
- Meteorological data: National Weather Service

Analytical Framework

- **Stage One:** county-level time series analysis using a Distributed Lag Non-Linear Model (DLNM) for the warmer months (April 1 through October 31)
 - <u>Heat exposure measures:</u> Daily maximum and minimum temperatures
 - Controls for air pollution, seasonality, long-term trends, day of the week, etc.
 - Health risks estimated for cumulative lag period of 0-3 days
- **Stage Two:** multivariate random-effects meta-analysis to derive overall cumulative heat-mortality relationships and estimate heat-attributable deaths over a range of temperature values.





Basis for Creating Heat-Related Health Impact Information



Understanding Health Impacts over a Range of Temperatures





Understanding Health Impacts over a Range of Temperatures





Generating Local Heat-Health Impacts

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Percent of Heat-Attributable Deaths (PHAD) =

Heat-Attributable Deaths at a Specific Temperature *100

All Heat-Attributable Deaths

Location-Specific Heat-Attributable Health Impacts

| Leasting | Percentile Range: 25 to 30 | | Percentile Range: 30 to 35 | | | | Percentile Range: 95 to 99 | | Percentile Range: > 99 | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|------|--|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Location | Temp. Range | PHAD (%) | Temp. Range | PHAD (%) | | | | Temp. Range | PHAD (%) | Temp. Range | PHAD (%) |
| <u>Baldwin, (Alabama)</u> | >83°F to 84°F | 0 | >84°F to 85°F | 0 | | | | >95°F to 102°F | 31 | >102°F | 2 |
| <u>Calhoun, (Alabama)</u> | >79°F to 81°F | 0 | >81°F to 82°F | 1 | | | | >95°F to 104°F | 25 | >104°F | 2 |
| <u>Colbert, Alabama</u> | >78°F to 80°F | 0 | >80°F to 82°F | 1 | | | | >97°F to 107°F | 25 | >107°F | 2 |
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| Natrona, (Wyoming) | >63°F to 66°F | 0 | >66°F to 69°F | 1 | | | | >95°F to 104°F | 26 | >104°F | 0.79 |
| Sheridan, (Wyoming) | >62°F to 65°F | 0 | >65°F to 67°F | 0 | | | | >96°F to 107°F | 27 | >107°F | 0.91 |
| <u>Uinta, (Wyoming)</u> | >58°F to 60°F | 0 | >60°F to 63°F | 0 | | | | >87°F to 94°F | 30 | >94°F | 0 |

• Created an algorithm to identify specific and cumulative mortality impacts

Ascertained heat-health impact information for multiple locations across the United States

HeatRisk Categories

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Extreme (4)

- Rare long duration and/or extreme event
- Extreme risk of widespread heat-related impacts (including illness and mortality) for anyone without effective cooling and/or hydration.
- Temps above 95th percentile for 2+ days and/or near all-time records.

Major (3)

- Major risk of widespread heat-related impacts (including illness and mortality) for anyone without effective cooling and/or hydration.
- Excessively warm day and nights (generally above 95th percentile).



Primary difference between Extreme and Major is duration and/or maximum intensity of heat. Both are potentially VERY impactful!



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HeatRisk Categories

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Moderate (2)

- Moderate risk of heat-related impacts, mostly in "at higher risk" populations without effective cooling and/or hydration
- Primarily heat-related illness. Non-zero, but low, risk of heat-related mortality expected.

Minor (1)

• Minor risk for "at higher risk" populations. Minor spike in heat illness. Non-zero, but very low, risk of mortality expected.

None (0)

• Little to no risk from expected heat.



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- HeatRisk leverages local climatology normals, including the 95th percentile of temperatures to identify excessive heat for *that* location
- Dark curve = 1991-2020 NCEI Normals
- Light grey curve = 95th percentile curve (30-day smooth applied)
- Dots = daily record highs in the period of record

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- The first threshold we define is the Yellow threshold
- We leverage the CDC Minimum Mortality Temperature (in urban areas) or 1st percentile (for rural areas)
- This means nearly all heat-attributable deaths were modeled to have occurred above this temperature
- Temperatures below this are in the Green category

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- Map of the Yellow maximum temperature threshold across the US based on CDC-derived data for ~700 stations.
- Modeled relationships (county/regional heat-health statistics modeled to single station location) were available from small rural locations up to large metropolitan areas.

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- The "base" Red threshold is based on the 50th percentile of heat- attributable deaths from the CDC data
- This means that half of those deaths were modeled to have occurred above/below this value
- In the warmer months, the Red threshold is then defined as the higher value between the base value or the 95th percentile curve (light gray curve)

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- Finally the **Orange** threshold is generated
- This involves:
 - Mathematically leveraging the Red and Yellow values
 - Taking into account the time of year (Spring vs Fall) and CDC data (25th percentile)
 - Capping at the Red base value (where applicable)
- Note differences in early and late season Orange thresholds, which account for acclimation aspects.

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- For minimum temperature, Orange and Red thresholds are based primarily on climatology. Yellow levels are based on CDC thresholds and climatology.
- Minimum temperatures are used in the 24-hour HeatRisk approach to better account for:
 - Overnight relief potential
 - Humidity



This process is applied to ~3100 stations across the Contiguous US

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How is humidity accounted for?

 Natural dividing line along 100°W, with higher average dew points (measure of moisture) to the east and lower to the west

"Along the hundredth meridian from Manitoba to Mexico there is a zone of semiarid land. ... Passing from east to west across this belt a wonderful transformation is observed. On the east a luxuriant growth of grass is seen... Passing westward, species after species of luxuriant grass and brilliant flowering plants disappear; the ground gradually becomes naked, with "bunch" grasses here and there; now and then a thorny cactus is seen, and the yucca thrusts out its sharp bayonets. At the western margin of the zone the arid lands proper are reached." (Powell 1890, Seager et al 2018)





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HeatRisk Algorithm -Combining to 24 hour value

| | MaxT (0,1,2,3) | MinT (0,1,2,3) |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Humid | 45% | 55% 27.5% Day 1 27.5% Day 2 |
| Dry | 67% | 33% 11.5% Day 1 21.5% Day 2 |

MaxT/MinTs are each assigned a 0, 1, 2, 3 based on where they fit within the daily threshold values.

Different weighting schemes are used for the "humid" and "dry" climates.

Final HeatRisk values consider the morning low, the afternoon high, and the following morning low to describe the 24 hour risk



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HeatRisk Process Review -Points to Grids to Forecast

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Impact-Based Verification

Comparing regional observed HeatRisk values (FEMA/HHS regions) against emergency dept. (ED) heat-related illness (HRI) for the combined 2019-2023 heat seasons found a strong correlation (0.80-0.90).

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Analysis of Daily HeatRisk Values and Emergency Department Heat-Related Injury Visits for Apr 1st through Oct 31st from 2019 to 2023





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Impact-Based Verification

HeatRisk vs. HRI ED Visit Rate Correlation for Warm Season Months (Apr - Oct) of 2023

Population Weighted



Daily HeatRisk vs. HRI rate



Impact Based Verification

Daily temperatures were not below 91 degrees from July 10th – July 25th. **During these two** weeks, 303 deaths occurred. A new top 5 record-breaking hottest temperatures of 119 occurred on July 19th, 20th, and 25th in Maricopa County.

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Over half of all heat related deaths in 2023 occurred on days where heat risk was calculated as extreme. There were 21 days in 2023 where the NWS calculated an extreme heat risk.

Over half of all heat related deaths in 2023 occurred on days where heat risk was calculated as extreme. There were 21 days in 2023 where the NWS calculated an extreme heat risk.

For more information: National Weather Service https://www.weather.gov/psr/heat



Heat Related Deaths Over Time

Deaths by Year

Maricopa County identified a total of 645 heat related deaths occurring in 2023.

This represents a 52 percent increase from last year and the most heat related deaths ever recorded.



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WPC HeatRisk CONUS Viewer

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heatrisk



- Access daily interactive maps with point-based forecasts
- Overview of HeatRisk, including a definition of each level
- Data Formats: static images, KML and GeoTIFF files

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National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) https://digital.weather.gov



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- HeatRisk will be available on NDFD for all CONUS locations by the end of May
- Data formats: GRIB2, XML, and WMS



Partner Usage

Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional **Hazard Mitigation**

Extreme Temperature Response Plan

depending on location.



NWS Experimental HeatRisk is portrayed in a numeric (0-4) and color (areen/yellow/orange/red/magenta) scale, very similar to the Air Quality Index (AQI). This daily value indicates the level of heat risk concern for any location, along with identifying the groups who are most at risk. Essentially, the higher the value, the greater the potential heat risk. During this experimental phase, the NWS in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona are linking the heat product issuance to the HeatRisk output, rather than to the many varied single threshold approaches previously used. In simple terms, magenta and red HeatRisk would

See Figure 1 below for an example of the NWS HeatRisk product distributed by NWS in the partner emails. See Table 1 on the next page for the HeatRisk table used to identify the risk used in the HeatRisk product.

generally lead to excessive heat warnings and orange would lead to advisories,

For more information visit the NWS Experimental HeatRisk: Identifying Potential Heat Risks in the Seven Day Forecast website.

Figure 1: NWS HeatRisk Product Example



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CDC HeatRisk

Dashboard

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CDC HeatRisk

Dashboard

www.cdc.gov/heatrisk

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| Get Your Loc | al HeatRisk | 30331: | Fulton County, (| GA | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Today's HeatRisk | | Today's HeatRisk | is Moderate. | | |
| | Fulton County, GA | | Today is an okay | day to be outside for mos | t people. If you are | |
| | | | sensitive to heat | consider ways to stay cool | | |
| | | | Heat can make air quality worse. Check the air quality in your are | | | |
| | | | before heading o | ut. | | |
| | EXTRE | 4 | | | | |
| | Moderate | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Source: NOAA/NWS | | | | | |
| HeatRisk Forecas | st | | | | | |
| April 5 | April 6 | April 7 | April 8 | April 9 | April 10 | |
| | | - April 7 | , April 0 | Little to None | Little to None | |
| Moderate | Major | Moderate | Minor | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Heat and Ai | r Quality | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Today's A | ir Quality | Moderate | | | | |
| Today's air quality is Moderate (51-100). Most people will be okay spending time of | | | | | | |
| but the air quality is moderate (51-100). Most people will be okay spending time out but the air quality may affect people who are very sensitive to air pollution. | | | | | | |
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CDC HeatRisk Dashboard

www.cdc.gov/heatrisk

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Today's HeatRisk is Moderate.

Today is an okay day to be outside for most people. If you are <u>sensitive to heat</u> consider ways to stay cool.

Heat can make <u>air quality</u> worse. Check the air quality in your area before heading out.



Actions you can take to protect your health

Stay hydrated, stay cool. People who are outside for a long time or who are sensitive to heat could have health impacts. Even a few hours in a cool location can lower your risk for health problems from heat.

If you are **outside**, especially for a long time, you can:

- Stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Take breaks when you can.
- Do outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the day or evening, if possible.

If you are indoors, you can:

- Use air conditioning or find a location that has one.
- Use a fan to cool your body off, only when indoor temperatures are less than 90°F.

Check on your family, friends, and neighbors, especially if they have chronic medical problems or live alone. Check on pets.

Work with your doctor to see if you need to take additional health actions.

Go to Heat and Your Health to learn more.

Today's HeatRisk is Extreme.

This level of heat affects everyone, as the heat is very intense and can last for a long time. Everyone can take steps to protect themselves from impacts of heat on your health.

Heat can make air quality worse. Check the <u>air quality</u> in your area before heading out.



Actions you can take to protect your health

Stay hydrated, stay cool. Everyone can have health impacts at this level of heat.

Staying cool on these days likely requires staying inside with air conditioning if possible. If you don't have air conditioning, consider <u>finding a location</u> that does. Fans may not cool you off when it is this hot outside. Even a few hours in a cool location can lower your risk for health impacts from heat.

If you are must be outside:

- Do outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the day or evening, or move to a cooler day, if
 possible,
- Stay in the shade as much as possible,
- Take breaks when you can.

Check on your family, friends, and neighbors, especially if they have chronic medical problems or live alone. Check on pets.

Work with your doctor to see if you need to take additional health actions.

Go to Heat and Your Health to learn more.



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NWS Forecast Tools to Assess Heat

Heat Index

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Wet Bulb Globe **Temperature**

Disclaimer: Always check with local officials for appropriate actions and activity levels. Experienced heat stress will depend upon duration and intensity of activity and personal health and vulnerability. Threat Level WBGT by Region (oF WBGT at these value **Risk of heat illnes** Region 3 increasing heat stress Region 2 Low Threat Elevated Three Moderate

High Threat

in, A., Williams, C., Phan, M and Cooper.



- More Complex: T + RH + wind + solar radiation
- High levels of outdoor physical activity





Risk of heat related impacts in climatological context with CDC heat-health information.

- Impacts-based: MaxT + MinT + CDC heat-health data
- Spectrum of heat-health impacts for all populations

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trousers and short sleeved shirt



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Resources

https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-index

- Overview of each of the three NWS heat tools
- Downloadable reference sheet
- Additional resources and outreach materials



NWS has multiple tools to assess the potential for heat stress due to extreme temperatures. The following tools can inform the issuance of NWS official heat watches, warnings, and advisories. Each of these tools integrate other weather parameters to provide a deeper level of information beyond what the actual air temperature can tell us. View the <u>NWS Heat Tools reference sheet</u> for more details.

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Thanks!

NWS

- Mike Staudenmaier, WRH/STID
- Chad Kahler, WRH/STID
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- Jessica Lee, Public Program
- Paul Iniguez, formerly of WFO Phoenix
- William Rasch, SOO WFO Sacramento
- Andrea Bair, WRH/ISD

CDC

• Ambarish Vaidyanathan, CDC



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Feedback on HeatRisk can be made here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpNWSHeatRisk_2024





Questions



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To ask a question, open your toolbar Go to the Questions header Type in your question and hit enter.

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