

# DHS/FEMA #SummerReady Extreme Heat Summit Resources

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## About these resources

Heat related illnesses and death are largely preventable with proper planning, education, and action. Heat.gov serves as the premier source of heat and health information for the nation to reduce the health, economic, and infrastructural impacts of extreme heat.

On April 26, in advance of the summer and underscoring the Biden-Harris Administration's focus on community resilience to address climate change, FEMA hosted a #SummerReady Extreme Heat summit for government leaders, resilience focused private sector, emergency management professionals, the public and nonprofit and academic organizations.

This summit focused on understanding extreme heat impacts and defining actionable ways to combat and prepare for these increasing risks across the country.

Visit [Heat.gov](https://heat.gov) to access the web portal for the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS).

## U.S. National Park Service

- The [National Park Service Health and Safety webpage](#) has information about planning a fun and safe adventure.
- [The National Park Service Trip Planning Guide](#) has key tips, links, and tools to help you "Plan like a Ranger" for your national park adventure! Having a plan will help you avoid common mistakes that can affect your visit and even lead to injury.
- Visit the [National Park Service's Park Explorer Junior Ranger page](#) to help kids make the most of their visit.
- The [National Park Service Beat the Heat page](#) helps park visitors prepare to stay safe from heat-related illnesses.
- The National Park Service strategy to [address the challenges of Climate Change](#).

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### RESOURCES TO PROTECT WORKERS

- Occupations that require strenuous work outdoors pose a high risk for heat-related illness. This includes construction workers, farmers, agricultural workers, delivery workers, athletes, landscapers, and others. Learn



more about the dangers of working in heat. Employer responsibilities and resources for safety are also available through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [Heat Illness Prevention campaign](#).

- The [Heat Safety Tool](#) provides real-time heat index and hourly forecasts, specific to your location, as well as occupational safety and health recommendations from OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
- The [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\) Worker Training Program](#) has heat safety and health training for at-risk workers.
- The Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) funds [National Training and Technical Assistance Partners – Farmworker Justice and Migrant Clinicians Network](#)
- A new resource from the National Integrated Heat Health Information System and the White House Extreme Heat Interagency Working Group highlights [federal funding opportunities that are relevant to heat](#) made available through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These opportunities are open for applications from state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; manufacturers; and more. The webpage will be updated weekly as new funding opportunities become available.

#### STAYING SAFE INDOORS:

- The [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) help keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. To inquire about LIHEAP assistance, call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) hotline at 1-866-674-6327.
- HHS has issued [guidance](#) that for the first time expands how LIHEAP can promote the delivery of efficient air conditioning equipment, community cooling centers, and more.
- The National Institute on Aging resource [Hot Weather Safety for Older Adults](#) offers background information on heat stroke, who is at risk, lowering your risk, and best practices.
- Medicare Advantage (MA) plans may provide [Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill - PDF](#) (SSBCI) with equipment and services that improve indoor air temperatures and quality (such as portable air conditioners) to chronically ill patients.

#### FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS:

- This CDC report on [Heat Response Plans - PDF](#) reviews steps emergency managers and health officials can take to develop and implement measures to protect their communities. Spikes in energy demand should be expected during summer months as air conditioning use increases. The combination of sagging power lines (copper expands as it heats up, thus increasing impedance and reducing throughput) and increased energy demands can cause power failures that make certain populations more vulnerable when the risk is highest. The HHS [emPOWER](#) program collects and shares de-identified Medicare data to help response agencies take action to protect the health of Medicare beneficiaries who depend on vulnerable electrical medical equipment.



- Real-time information on health impacts from extreme heat can also help decision-makers implement strategies to reduce risk. [CDC's Heat and Health Tracker](#) provides regular updates on the rate of heat-related Emergency Department visits (organized by HHS regions) and observed temperature.
- If you are a local organization planning to open a cooling shelter, consider referring to [CDC guidance - PDF](#) on how to maintain a safe shelter during a heat wave.
- Check out SAMHSA's [Tips for People Who Take Medication: Coping with Hot Weather - PDF](#) for more information on how higher temperatures may impact your health if you are taking certain medications and steps to build resilience to climate impacts, as well as SAMHSA's [Climate Change and Health Equity](#) site for more information on the behavioral health impacts of climate change, preparing for a disaster, and resources for disaster planning and climate change education.

## U.S. Fire Administration

- Watch and listen to a [special episode of The USFA Podcast](#) as Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell interviews Chief Mary Cameli and Assistant Chief James Johnson from Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Assistant Chief Tim Kreis from Phoenix Fire Department to about how they are adapting to the extreme heat in the U.S.
- The [USFA Emergency Services Ergonomic and Wellness handbook](#) provides guidance to protect firefighters from extreme environmental conditions including extreme heat.

## Arizona Resources

- The [Arizona Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan](#) outlines how state agencies are preparing for another extreme heat event this year, and puts forth recommendations for how the state can prepare for future events.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services [ADHS Extreme Heat Preparedness webpage](#) is a one-stop shop for resources, planning and recommendations to keep individuals safe during extreme heat events.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services [Heat Safety webpage](#) provides heat safety messages and resources for individuals, including cooling center locations, how to sign up for excessive heat warnings and more.

## Chicago, Illinois Resources

- [Chicago Heat Watch Report](#) provides a snapshot in time of how urban heat varies across neighborhoods and how local landscape features affect temperature and humidity. This report presents the process, mapping outputs, media coverage and photographs from Heat Watch, as well as next steps for how to build on the results.
- One of the ways Chicago is carrying out its Climate Action Plan in Chicago is through the [Our Roots Chicago project](#). The project goal is to expand the tree canopy in Chicago through an equitable approach to every neighborhood in Chicago leaving no neighborhood behind.



- In July 2023, Chicago was one of 16 communities across the nation to build a team of resident scientists to measure heat across communities this summer. Results from this initiative can be found on the [City of Chicago :: Cool Chi](#) page.
- The Defusing Disasters Working Group aims to mitigate the adverse effects of extreme weather events in Chicago and beyond by leveraging diverse expertise, research and community engagement. Through strategic partnerships and evidence-based approaches, the group strives to empower and support vulnerable populations and enhance urban ecosystems to create healthier, more livable cities. Read more about the project [Defusing Disasters: Buffett Institute for Global Affairs - Northwestern University](#).

## New York City Resources

- New York City's [Annual Heat-Mortality Report \(2023 report\)](#). Links at the bottom lead to the 2021 and 2022.
- New York City Health Department [Climate and Health Data Portal](#).

