

US braces for second day of scorching weekend temperatures

July 21 2019, by Brian Knowlton



People across much of the US have been urged to stay hydrated, watch out for the sick and elderly, stay inside as much as possible and not leave children or animals in cars

Americans braced for a second—and equally scorching—day of dangerously hot weather Sunday, with daytime temperatures forecast to

approach 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) across a number of major US cities.

An oppressive heat wave stretching from the Midwestern plains to the Atlantic coast had nearly 150 million people struggling to stay cool amid stifling temperatures Saturday.

"The temperatures we're seeing in our city today and tomorrow could be the highest we've seen in years. Take it seriously," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Twitter.

The heat was expected to continue through late Sunday as a high-pressure system off the Atlantic coast ushered in steamy, subtropical air.

"Dangerously hot conditions will continue through Sunday," the National Weather Service (NWS) warned for the Washington and Baltimore area, where forecasters predicted [high temperatures](#) ranging from 95 to 100 degrees for a second day.

"High temperatures and humidity could quickly cause heat stress or heat stroke if precautions are not taken," the NWS added.

People were urged to stay hydrated, watch out for the sick and elderly, stay inside as much as possible and not leave children or animals in cars.

The heat wave already claimed at least three lives, including two earlier in the week in the eastern state of Maryland.

Heatwave in the US and Canada

Active alerts as of July 20

US National Weather Service

■ Excessive heat warning ■ Heat advisory

Canadian government

■ Heat warning

Temperatures close to or exceeding 38 degrees Celsius



Heatwave in the US and Canada

In Arkansas, 32-year-old former NFL player Mitch Petrus died of heatstroke Thursday after working outside his family's shop.

Heat warnings have also been issued for parts of eastern Canada. In New York, de Blasio declared a heat emergency.

The New York City Triathlon, which had been scheduled for Sunday, was cancelled for the first time since its founding in 2001. Meanwhile the two-day OZY Fest—a food, comedy and music festival set for Central Park—was also called off.

In Washington, a popular weekly outdoor summer jazz concert at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden was cancelled.



Nearly 150 million people across the US are facing hazardous temperatures in a heat wave stretching from the Midwestern plains to the Atlantic coast

Triple digits

New York City opened 500 cooling centers for residents.

At least three public defenders said on Twitter that inmates in New York's notorious Rikers Island jail complex were suffering with no air conditioning, and that some guards had turned off fans as punishment, resulting in "deadly conditions."

The Brooklyn Defender Services legal aid group said some inmates didn't have summer clothing, only long underwear provided by the group last winter.

Top officials from the city's Department of Corrections were at the facility monitoring the response to the heat wave to "protect health and safety of everyone in the facility," de Blasio wrote on Twitter.



A Philadelphia man, R.J. Rahman, wore a wet rag on his head in an effort to fend off the dangerously oppressive heat

The department said in a statement to *AFP* that extra staff were on hand to distribute summer clothing, and clinics were open around the clock to treat heat-related symptoms.

Those in units without [air conditioning](#) were given access to fans, ice, water and "multiple cool showers."

The city's electrical grid was so far handling the extra demand, which came just a week after a major outage, blamed on mechanical problems, left tens of thousands of Manhattan residents in the dark.

Triple-digit temperatures in the US northeast are unusual.

The Philadelphia Inquirer suggested, tongue in cheek, that locals might want to seek relief in normally sweltering Miami or Phoenix, which would be up to 25 degrees cooler. Forecasters said temperatures in the city would potentially reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit Sunday.



A street hawker wears an umbrella hat to fend off sweltering heat in Washington amid an oppressive heat wave

In Boston, where the weather service said that Saturday and Sunday would be "major scorchers," city officials scrapped entry fees at public

pools.

Earlier in the week, the National Weather Service office in the Midwestern city of Omaha baked a tray of biscuits—savory breakfast bread similar to scones—on the dashboard of a parked car. After nearly eight hours and with temperatures on the pan reaching 185 degrees, the pastries were almost fully cooked.

Climate data showed June was the hottest month on record worldwide, with a [heat](#) wave across Europe smashing national records.

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