

Heat will stay stuck on extra high for July in most of US

July 7 2020, by Seth Borenstein



In this Monday, July 6, 2020 file photo, firefighters douse hot spots along Agua Dulce Canyon road in Agua Dulce, Calif. Emergency personnel are working through high temperatures to contain the Soledad fire in Southern California. In early July 2020, meteorologists say temperatures will be stuck with above normal temperatures through the month if not longer. (David Crane/The Orange County Register via AP)

The heat is on. And for most of America it'll stay on through the rest of the month and maybe longer, meteorologists say.

Widespread and prolonged [extreme heat](#) is baking the contiguous United States and meteorologists see no relief in sight, except for a brief time in a corner of the Pacific Northwest. [Next week](#) is likely to be worse than this week. And the entire Lower 48 states and Alaska are likely to be warmer than normal for the [last two weeks of July](#), traditionally the hottest time of year, according to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

"It's very widespread and it's going to be very long lasting," said Jeff Masters, founder of Weather Underground and now a meteorologist at Yale Climate Connections. "It's not a record-breaking [heat wave](#), but it is notable for its persistence."

This is a dangerous type of heat where people need to be careful about [heat stroke](#), stay indoors and drink plenty of water, meteorologists said.

The National Weather Service [warned of excessive heat](#) on Tuesday for 18 million people, but that's nothing compared to what's coming up.

At the end of this week, much of the nation will likely be passing or flirting with [temperatures in the 90s](#). And it will likely feel even hotter in the South.

[Charleston](#), South Carolina, likely will feel 105 on Friday and then 108 on Saturday. [Little Rock](#) is forecast to feel like 107 and 109 on Friday and Saturday. [Houston](#) should feel like 109 Friday through Sunday. [Phoenix](#) is forecast to feel like 108 on Friday and 110 on Saturday and Sunday.

Then it goes up a notch more.

Next week, while close to two-thirds of the country will be warmer than normal, about 40% of the Lower 48 has a [moderate risk of extreme and dangerous heat](#), said Climate Prediction Center meteorologist Matthew Rosencrans.

Next week, Wisconsin could be battling it out with the Southeast for the nation's hottest feels-like [temperature](#)—which factors in humidity—with heat indices pushing past 100, Rosencrans said. And the worst prolonged heat looks to be around western Nebraska, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle, with temperatures approaching 110, but without the sticky humidity.

The [weather](#) maps are covered in blood red, dark brown and purple—colors signifying much hotter than normal temperatures. Rosencrans said he's never seen temperature forecast maps like that at the hottest time of the year.

A giant ridge of high pressure, parking hot air, is stuck in the Southwest and extends farther east than usual, blocking cold fronts from moving in, Rosencrans said. And the jet stream, a river of air that keeps weather moving, has retreated to Canada, so nothing is pushing the heat along. On top of that, dry weather feeds the heat in a "vicious feedback cycle," he said.

In Miami, which has experienced its hottest stretch on record, an unusually hot Atlantic Ocean is adding to the problem, not allowing it to cool below 80 at night, said Ryan Maue, a private [meteorologist](#) for BAM forecasts.

Masters said there's "very toasty water pretty much everywhere," except near Greenland.

Without extensive statistical and scientific analysis, meteorologists can't

say for sure that the [heat](#) is due to global warming, Rosencrans said. But this is what scientists expect more of with climate change, he and others said.

Going into July, the world already was feeling the [second hottest year](#) on record and that's a base to add natural variable warm weather factors on top of, Masters said.

So what about relief? When do long-term forecast computer models show below-normal temperatures for significant parts of the country?

Masters scrolled through the simulations. Not the rest of July. Not August. Not September. Not October. Not November.

"It does not give us any false hope," Masters said. "False hope or real hope is hard to come by."

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