



Heat Tabletop Exercise Planning Challenge Award

Office of Sustainability
&
Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services

City Council
February 25, 2025

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BACKGROUND

Comparison of Extremely Hot Days in Riverside – 2005 vs. 2024

Year	95°F or above	100°F or above	110°F or above	Hottest Day
2005	58	12	0	103°F
2024	79	39	3	115°F

Data Source: Extremeheatwatch.com

	Average Hottest Day	Number of Days Above 102° F
2005	110° F	15 Days/Year
2100	114°-120° F (+ 4° to 10° F)	60-90 Days/Year

Data Source: California Energy Commission, CalAdapt Data: <https://caladapt.org/heat/>

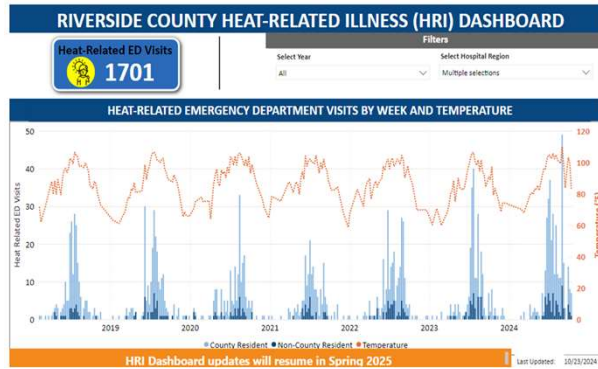
- Riverside experiences extreme heat and its impacts to human health, daily activities, agriculture and food systems, and infrastructure and transportation.
- Average Mean Temp increase of 5 to 8 degrees;
- More days needing air conditioning and fewer days requiring heat.

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COUNTY HEAT RELATED DATA



Data Source: Riverside University Health System, County Heat-Related Illness (HRI) Dashboard:
<https://www.ruhealth.org/heat-related-illness-dashboard>

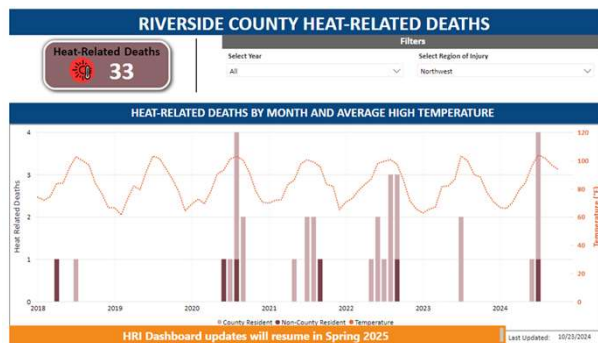


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- Cumulative data from 2018-2024 for the Northwest Region (includes City of Riverside)
- Northwest Region counted **1701 heat-related ED visits**
- Heat-related ED visits are **preventable**

COUNTY HEAT RELATED DATA



Data Source: Riverside University Health System, County Heat-Related Illness (HRI) Dashboard:
<https://www.ruhealth.org/heat-related-illness-dashboard>



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- Cumulative data from 2018-2024 for the Northwest Region (includes City of Riverside)
- Northwest Region counted **33 heat-related deaths**
- Heat-related deaths are **preventable**

\$20,000 Award

1. Awarded \$20,000 from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for an extreme heat tabletop exercise.
2. An extreme heat tabletop exercise serves to pre-plan for future scenarios and mitigate potential health impacts. The City of Riverside and American Red Cross of Riverside County will collaborate to develop the exercise.
3. The City of Riverside will partner with several stakeholders including Public Health, school districts, universities and more.



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TABLETOP ELEMENTS

Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review available options for extreme heat exposure reduction for the most at-risk groups. 2. Identify critical gaps in the response to extreme heat, with an emphasis on improving outcomes for the most at-risk groups. 3. Analyze and prioritize both short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (10-15 years) exposure reduction solutions that can occur at various social levels (individual, community, municipality, etc.) for the most at-risk groups.
Threat or Hazard Mitigation	Extreme and prolonged heat events; concurrently with electric outages caused by heat and resulting wildfires; leading to worsening air quality.
Scenario	An extended heat event in the City of Riverside threatens residents, especially those living with energy and housing insecurity, as well as visitors. This event stresses the area's infrastructure, causes many heat-related illnesses, and creates favorable wildfire conditions.



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TABLETOP ELEMENTS

Module 1	Context and Preparedness: Introduces participants to the scenario and seeks to identify current emergency response protocols while assessing the city's readiness for extreme heat events.
Module 2	Heat Response Analysis and Identifying Gaps: Evaluates the city's heat emergency management system, identifying critical gaps and limitations as it faces compound challenges: a historic heat wave coinciding with surrounding wildfires and deteriorating air quality throughout the week.
Module 3	Improving the City's Response and Managing Risk in the Short Term: Focuses on developing immediate, actionable strategies to enhance emergency response capabilities and implement rapid interventions for heat-related emergencies.
Module 4	Managing Risk in the Long Term: Addresses sustainable, long-term solutions for building community resilience against extreme heat, including infrastructure improvements and policy recommendations for lasting climate adaptation.



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Community Well-being

Goal 2.5. Foster relationships between community members, partner organizations, and public safety professionals to define, prioritize, and address community safety and social service needs.

Goal 2.6. Strengthen community preparedness for emergencies to ensure effective response and recovery.

Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.3. Implement local and support regional proactive policies and inclusive decision-making processes to deliver environmental justice and ensure that all residents breathe healthy and clean air with the goal of having zero days of unhealthy air quality per the South Coast Air Quality District's Air Quality Index (AQI).



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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Accept a \$20,000 grant award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support extreme heat planning;
2. With at least five affirmative votes, and upon receipt of the award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record an increase in revenues and appropriate expenditures in the amount of \$20,000, or the actual award amount, in General Fund, City Manager's Office, Office of Sustainability revenue and expenditure accounts.



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