



NJOEM

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PREPAREDNESS. RESPONSE. RECOVERY. MITIGATION.



EXTREME HEAT BRIEFING



SITUATION OVERVIEW & OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE



RECOVERY



MITIGATION

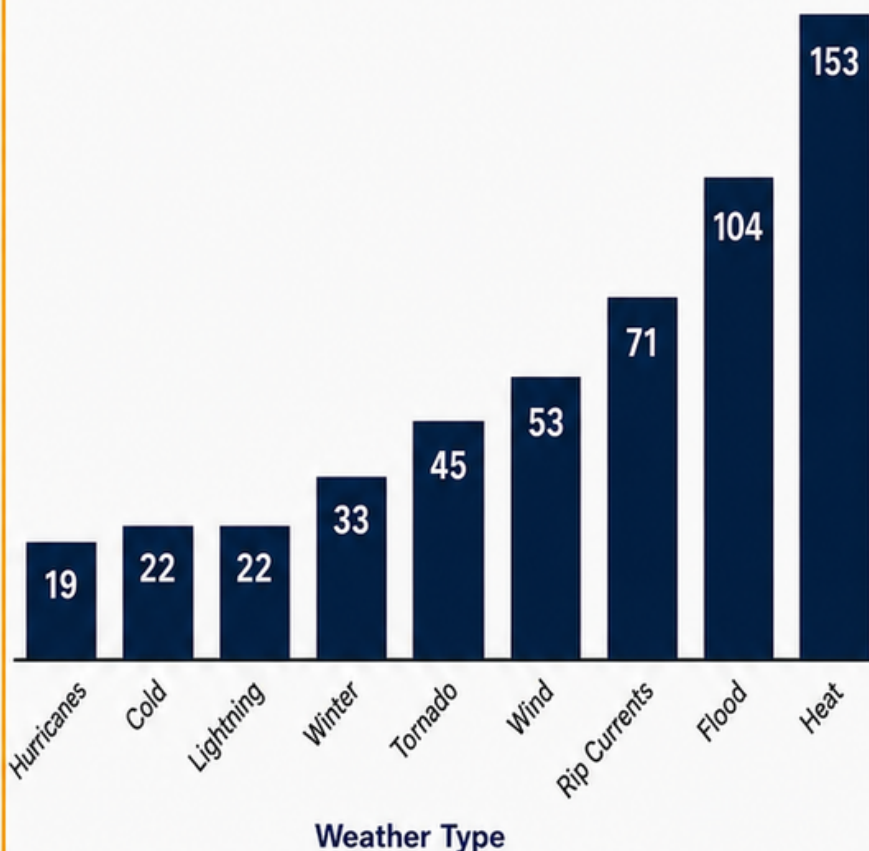
June 29, 2026



BACKGROUND

- New Jersey's local National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices define a heat wave as 3 or more days with temperatures of 90 degrees or higher. Heat waves can occur with or without humidity, and have the potential to cover a large area, exposing many people to life-threatening heat conditions.
- In general, excessive heat event conditions are characterized by maximum heat index temperatures of 105 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Specific criteria vary regionally and seasonally, particularly in areas not used to extreme heat conditions.
- **Maximum heat index for Wednesday through Saturday are forecast between 105 – 111 degrees.**

10-YEAR AVERAGE FOR WEATHER FATALITIES for 50 States Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands (2013 - 2022)



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) /
National Weather Service (NWS)



KEY TAKEAWAY

Extreme heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the U.S., accounting for more fatalities than hurricanes, floods, and all other listed weather hazards combined over the past 10 years.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEAT ALERT FRAMEWORK

Understanding heat alert levels, triggers, and recommended actions.

TYPE OF ALERT	EXCESSIVE HEAT ALERT NAME	WEATHER TRIGGER	PUBLIC PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS	CONSEQUENCES FOR INACTION
 BE AWARE!	Outlook	Potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3–7 days.	Awareness for individuals/organizations that need considerable lead-time to prepare (e.g., arranging cooling center transport, rearranging youth camp schedules to keep children shaded or at water features).	Without proper awareness, certain individuals might not have access to extreme heat resilience measures.
 BE PREPARED! ISSUED 6/29	Watch	Conditions indicate a 50% or greater chance of an excessive heat event in the next 24–72 hours.	Public notice that individuals might need to take precautions to protect their health.	The public might not be adequately prepared for an extreme heat event.
 TAKE ACTION!	Advisory	Up to 48 hours before a maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 95°F for at least two consecutive days or 100 to 104°F for any length of time.	Directives to take necessary precautions to protect individual health for the duration of the event.	Failing to take precautions under a Heat Advisory could lead to heat illness or death.
 TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION!	Warning	Within 48-hours of the onset of an extreme heat event.	Directives to take necessary precautions to protect individual health for the duration of the event.	Failing to heed an Excessive Heat Warning and take immediate precautions may lead to serious heat illness or death.

CURRENT STATUS



**EXTREME HEAT
WATCH**
**ISSUED
JUNE 29, 2026**

ALERT PROGRESSION



**OUTLOOK
MONITOR**
Potential exists in the next 3–7 days.



**WATCH
PREPARE**
Conditions possible in the next 24–72 hours.



**ADVISORY
TAKE ACTION**
Heat index conditions expected in the next up to 48 hours.



**WARNING
TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION**
Extreme heat expected within 48 hours.

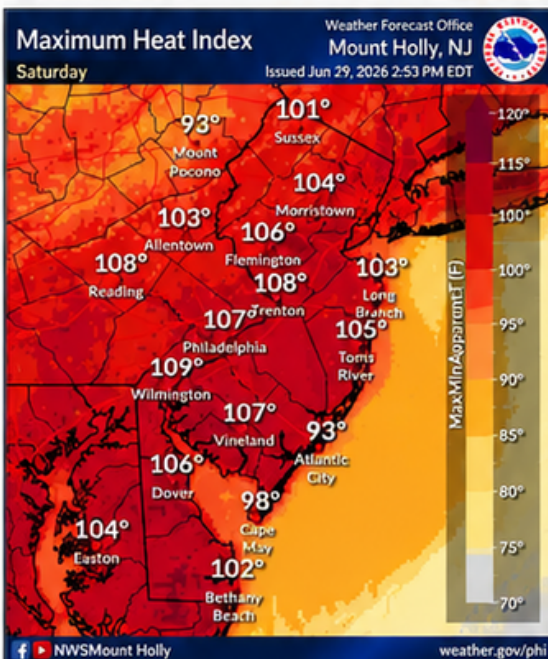
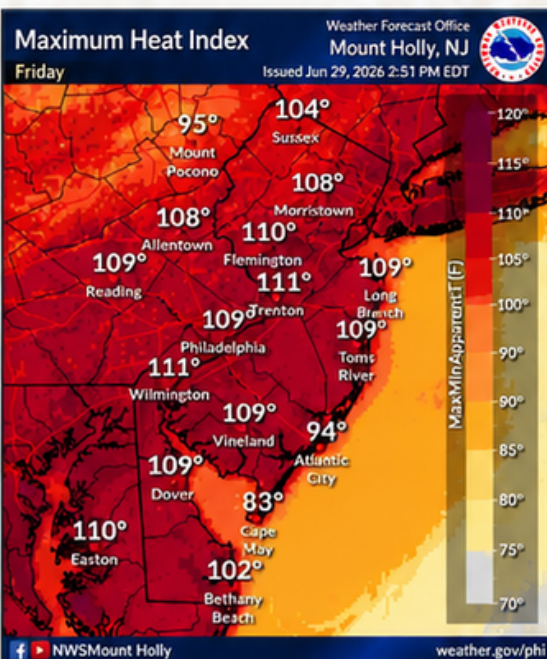
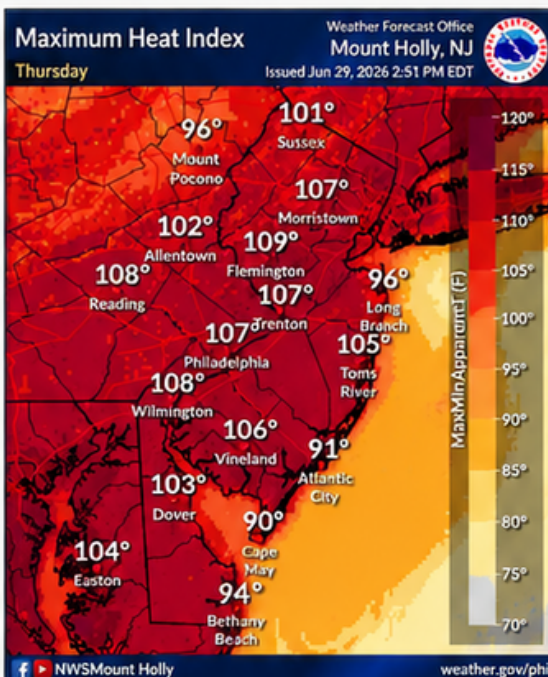
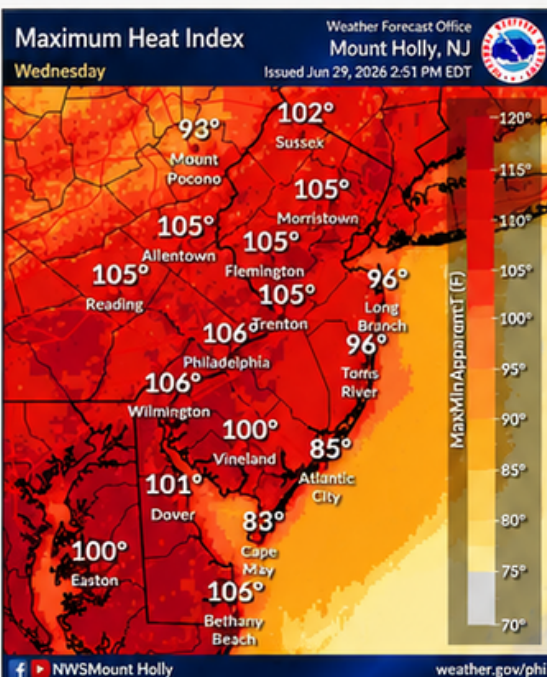


GOVERNOR'S KEY TAKEAWAY

New Jersey is currently under an Extreme Heat Watch. This means conditions are favorable for dangerous heat in the next 24–72 hours. Continued monitoring and preparations are critical. If forecast confidence increases, the state could transition to a Heat Advisory or Warning, requiring escalated public protective actions.



THIS WEEK'S OUTLOOK



EXTREME HEAT WATCH LIKELY TO BE UPGRADED

The current Extreme Heat Watch is expected to remain the primary headline through the next 24 to 48 hours but will likely be upgraded to an Extreme Heat Warning as confidence increases.



HEAT ADVISORIES POSSIBLE

The National Weather Service also indicates Heat Advisories may be issued for portions of southern New Jersey on Wednesday before the most dangerous heat arrives Thursday and Friday.



STRONG TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS POSSIBLE

In addition, strong to severe thunderstorms may develop Friday through the Independence Day weekend, potentially compounding impacts to holiday activities.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Prolonged and dangerous heat is expected Wed–Sat with heat indices of 105–111°F, creating a significant risk to life and health. Stay informed, take precautions, and check on vulnerable populations.



CURRENT ADVISORIES



The National Weather Service Mount Holly (PHI) issued the **Extreme Heat Watch for New Jersey** at 2:10 PM EDT on Monday, June 29, 2026.

THE WATCH WAS ISSUED IN PHASES:



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING:

- ✓ Burlington
- ✓ Hunterdon
- ✓ Middlesex
- ✓ Monmouth
- ✓ Morris
- ✓ Ocean
- ✓ Somerset
- ✓ Sussex
- ✓ Warren



THURSDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING:

- ✓ Atlantic
- ✓ Cape May
- ✓ Cumberland



AIR QUALITY ALERT

According to the NWS Mount Holly Air Quality Alert bulletin, the current alert for New Jersey is:



EFFECTIVE:
11:00 AM EDT to 11:00 PM EDT
on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.



NEW JERSEY COUNTIES INCLUDED
Burlington | Camden | Gloucester | Mercer
Middlesex | Monmouth | Ocean

These counties are under a **Code Orange** Air Quality Alert due to elevated ground-level ozone concentrations expected during the afternoon and evening.



WHAT A CODE ORANGE MEANS

A Code Orange Air Quality Alert indicates the Air Quality Index (AQI) is forecast to reach 101–150, meaning air quality is **unhealthy for sensitive groups**, including:



Children



Older adults



Individuals with
asthma or other
respiratory diseases



Individuals with
heart disease

Sensitive groups should reduce prolonged or strenuous outdoor activity during the alert period.

NJOEM STATEWIDE RESPONSE AND PLANNING:



STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (SEOC)

The SEOC plays a centralized coordination and support role for all local, county, and state agencies during emergencies, including:



Maintaining overall situational awareness and coordinating with the **National Weather Service** to gain a full understanding of the hazards and advisories.



Regular communication with Emergency Support Function (ESF) Partners) and additional state/local partners. Most notably:

-  **NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)** – Impacts related to public health vulnerabilities.
-  **NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)** – Maintain awareness of any significant power outage issues in the State.
-  **NJ Department of Health (NJDOH)** – Heat-related EMS calls and hospital data.



The SEOC continues to **actively monitor** for heat-related **resource requests** from counties and municipalities. NJOEM is prepared to assist with state assets should demand exceed local capabilities.



PUBLIC INFORMATION



NJOEM PIOs are promoting preparedness messaging regarding **hydration, awareness of heat illness signs, checking on vulnerable residents, cooling strategies, and sign-ups for emergency alerts.**



Additionally, they will assist with amplifying messaging from the **National Weather Service, NJDEP**, and other agencies as necessary.



KEY MESSAGING FOCUS



STAY HYDRATED

Drink water regularly, even if you don't feel thirsty.



AVOID OUTDOOR ACTIVITY 11AM-4PM

Limit strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day.



NEVER LEAVE KIDS OR PETS IN CARS

Temperatures can rise quickly and be deadly.



CHECK ON VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

Check on elderly or vulnerable individuals during extreme heat.



SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Stay informed with the latest alerts and information.



SEOC

STATE EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTER



EMERGENCY RESPONSE BUREAU (ERB)



NJOEM has an ERB Representative embedded in each of the **twenty-one (21) counties** to serve as a liaison between county and state OEM staff.



Outreach is underway to county OEM offices to help execute **county-level heat emergency plans** and prepare **cooling center activations** as needed.



Monitoring for any reports of **significant incidents** or major **power outage concerns**.



Identifying **unmet needs** at the county level for water distribution, backup generators for cooling centers, or staff to operate shelters etc.



ERB Representative will assist with any **resource request processes** that will be directed to the State Emergency Operations Center for fulfillment.



SEOC

STATE EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTER



COUNTY PLANNING

STATEWIDE COOLING CENTER OPERATIONS



Cooling centers have been activated across **all 21 New Jersey counties**. Locations include public libraries, municipal buildings, senior centers, recreation facilities, and shelters.



Residents can locate the nearest cooling center by **calling 2-1-1**, texting their ZIP Code to **898-211**, or visiting **NJ211.org** for locations and operating hours.



New Jersey's new **Code Red** initiative expands coordinated county planning for extreme heat and significant air quality events. County plans include outreach to vulnerable populations, transportation assistance, cooling center operations, and coordinated public messaging.



SEOC and county OEMs continue coordinating cooling center operations, monitoring capacity, and identifying additional locations should demand increase.

HIGH-DEMAND COUNTIES



BERGEN



ESSEX



HUDSON



MIDDLESEX



MONMOUTH



OCEAN



CAMDEN



MERCER



LARGEST COOLING CENTER NETWORKS
Based on population and urban density

EXAMPLE COOLING CENTER LOCATIONS



PUBLIC
LIBRARIES



SENIOR
CENTERS



MUNICIPAL
BUILDINGS



COMMUNITY
CENTERS



RECREATION
CENTERS



EMERGENCY
SHELTERS



CODE RED INITIATIVE

County Code Red plans support vulnerable populations during extreme heat and poor air quality through coordinated cooling centers, transportation, outreach, and emergency communications.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Important planning tools, alerts, and public information resources for extreme heat.



OPERATIONAL RESOURCES



Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan (RAP)

New Jersey's statewide plan to build resilience and reduce impacts from extreme heat.



dep.nj.gov/climatechange/resilience/nj-extreme-heat-resilience-action-plan/



NWS Alerts (Mount Holly Forecast Office)

Current hazards, watches, warnings and forecasts for New Jersey.



weather.gov/phi/allhazardsPHI



PUBLIC RESOURCES



NJ Cooling Centers | NJ 2-1-1 Partnership

Find the nearest active cooling center and view operating hours.



nj211.org/nj-cooling-centers



NJOEM (@ReadyNJ) on X

Official NJOEM updates, alerts, and emergency information.



x.com/ReadyNJ



Extreme Heat Emergencies | Heat Hub New Jersey

Information on extreme heat events, preparedness, and response actions.



heat-hub-new-jersey-njdep.hub.arcgis.com/pages/extreme-heat-emergencies



Extreme Heat and Vulnerable Populations | Heat Hub New Jersey

Resources and guidance for protecting individuals most at risk during extreme heat.



heat-hub-new-jersey-njdep.hub.arcgis.com/pages/extreme-heat-and-vulnerable-populations



Chill Out NJ

Tips, tools, and programs to help New Jersey residents stay cool and safe.



chilloutnj.org



STAY INFORMED. STAY SAFE.

Check these resources regularly for the latest information and updates during periods of extreme heat.

