

Extreme heat impacts under a changed climate and opportunities for action

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Killer Heat in the United States

Climate Choices and the Future of Dangerously Hot Days



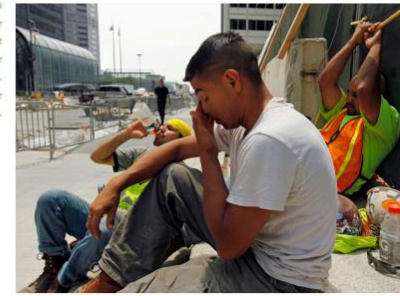
Too Hot to Work

Assessing the Threats Climate Change Poses to Outdoor Workers

HIGHLIGHTS
Outdoor workers face severe risks from extreme heat—risks that will increasingly threaten the health and livelihood of tens of millions of outdoor workers in the United States as climate change makes dangerously hot days more frequent and intense. With economic and legal systems that routinely discount their lives and safety, workers who experience heat-related injuries or illnesses on the job have little to no recourse. By midcentury, with no action to reduce global warming emissions, an estimated \$5.4 billion in outdoor workers' earnings would be at risk annually due to extreme heat. Even with bold action to limit emissions, outdoor workers will face severe and rising risks from extreme heat. Policymakers and employers must take actions to protect outdoor workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored weaknesses and stark variations in the protections available to workers in the United States. Across the nation, millions of people lost their jobs or were furloughed, their financial present and futures suddenly cast into doubt. And while those in some types of jobs could reduce their exposure to COVID-19 by working from home, workers in many outdoor occupations were deemed essential. In planting and harvesting food to fill our plates, responding to community emergencies, caring for our roads and rails, and delivering supplies that shuttered stores could not provide, they risked infection, illness, and even death—their own, or their families'—as they performed their daily work.

Yet the novel coronavirus is only the latest addition to a long list of on-the-job hazards confronting outdoor workers. Each summer, the roughly 32 million outdoor workers across the United States—from construction workers to farmworkers to emergency responders—regularly face a brutal choice: risk their health by enduring dangerous exposure to heat or risk their jobs by staying home.



Members of a road construction crew take a break from working during a heat wave in Chicago in June, 2012, as temperatures approached 90°F. Between now and midcentury, continued global warming will increasingly expose outdoor workers to dangerous conditions, necessitate schedule adjustments or reductions in work hours, and is projected to put workers' earnings at risk.

Climate Change has turned summer into a Danger Season

Goodbye, carefree summers—hello, 'Danger Season'

The AMA has declared the warming climate 'a public health crisis that threatens the health and well-being of all people'

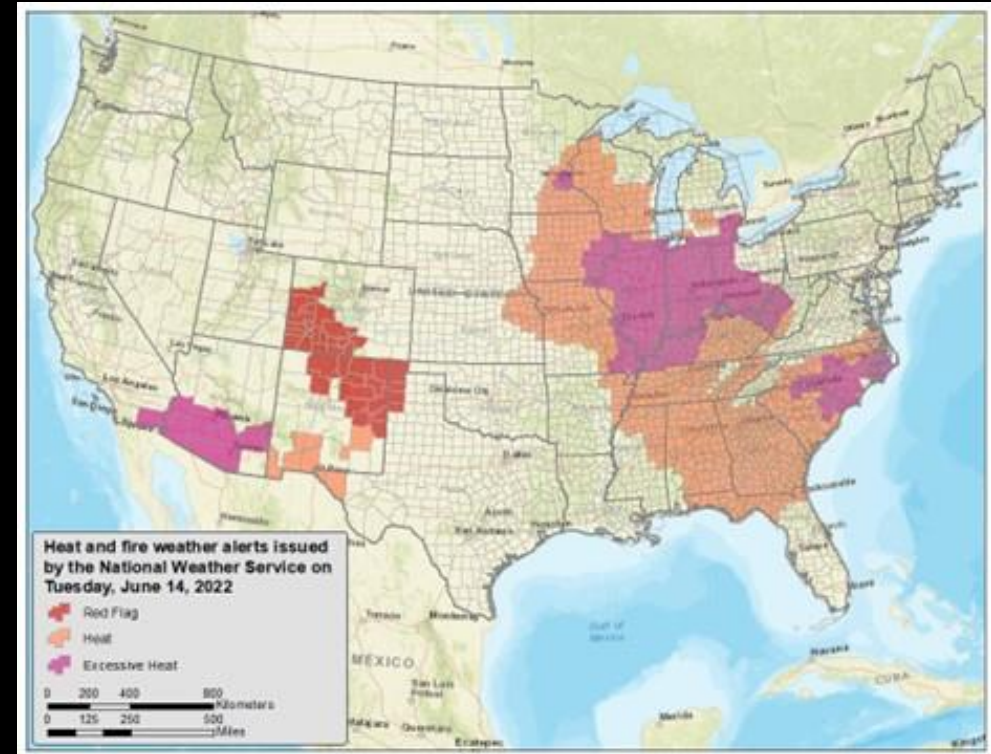
by Erika Spanger-Siegrfried — June 20, 2022 in Influencers



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Dangerous heat index (108-112°F) forecast today for Mobile County, AL & nearby counties. @ClimateCentral says made 4 x more likely by #climatechange. More heat is in the forecast. Stay safe! #DangerSeason
[weather.gov/mob](https://www.weather.gov/mob)
climatecentral.org/tools/climate-...

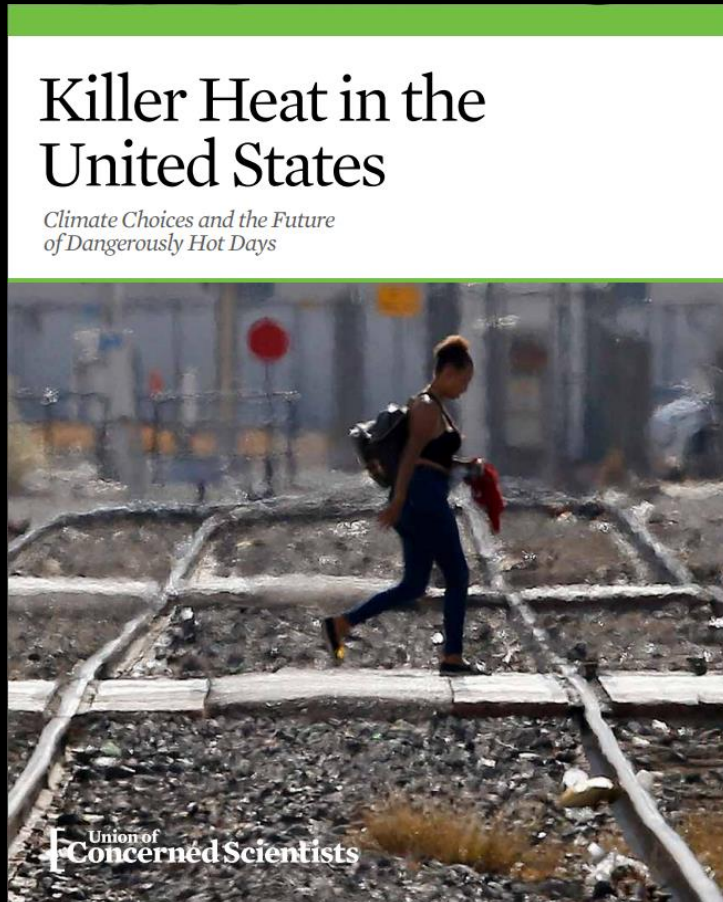
10:01 AM · Jun 23, 2022 · Twitter Web App



INDEPENDENT | The Independent

Scientists warn of summer 'danger season' amid fires, floods and heatwaves

Killer Heat in the United States



Heat Index
Above 90°F



Outdoor workers become more susceptible to heat-related illness.

Heat Index
Above 100°F



Children, elderly adults, pregnant women, and people with underlying conditions are at heightened risk of heat-related illness.

Heat Index
Above 105°F



Anyone could be at risk of heat-related illness or even death as a result of prolonged exposure.

Heat Index
Off the Charts

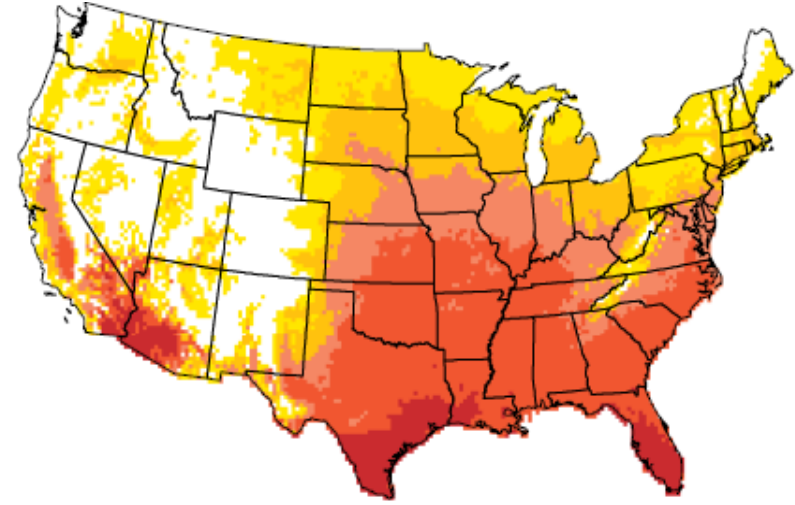
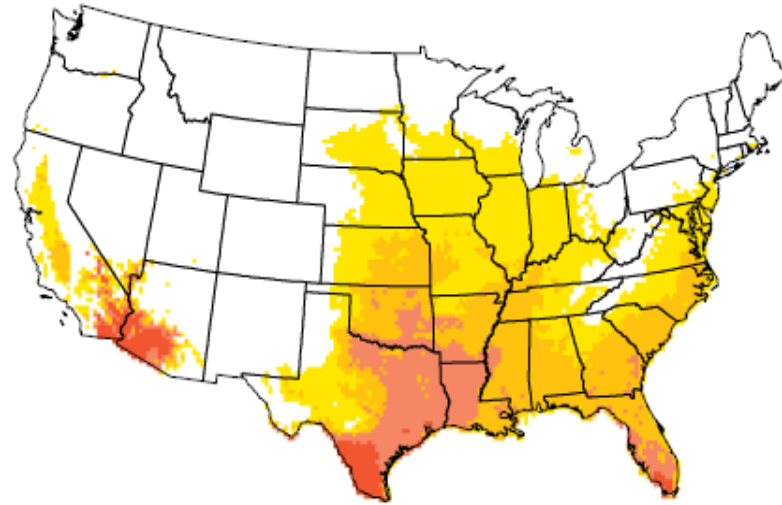


Undetermined: any level of exposure is presumed extremely dangerous for all people and likely to result in heat-related illness or even death

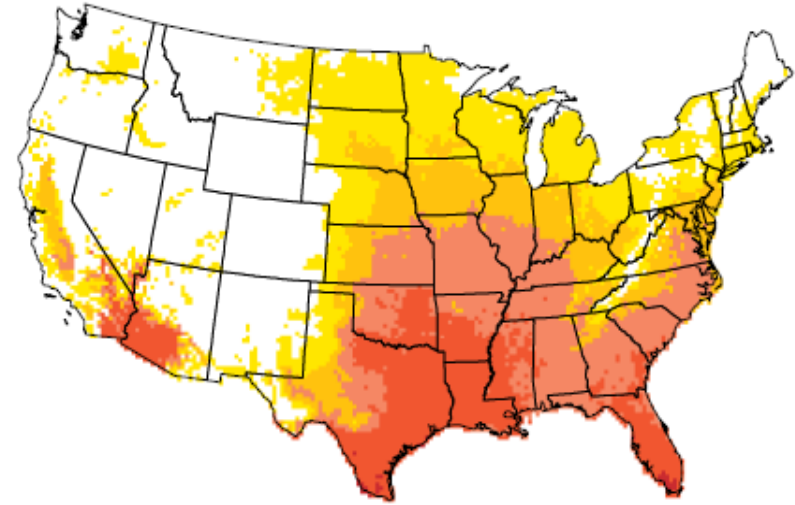
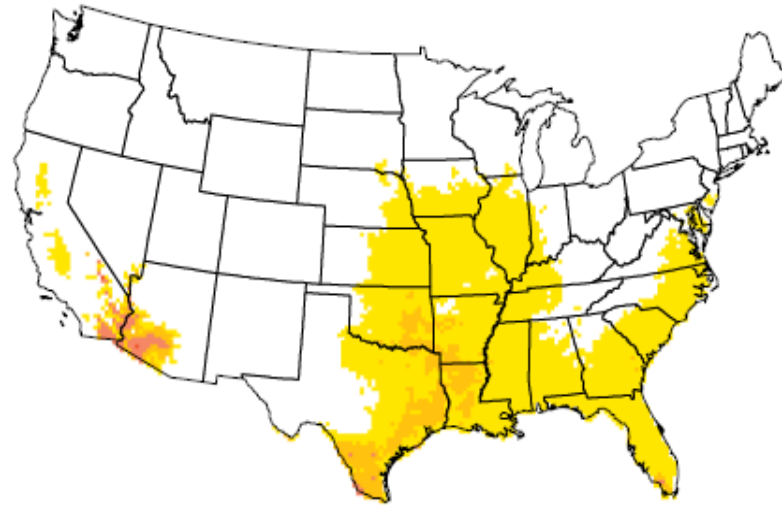
Historical

Midcentury No Action

100°F+



105°F+



Average Days per Year

□ 0-1

■ >1-10

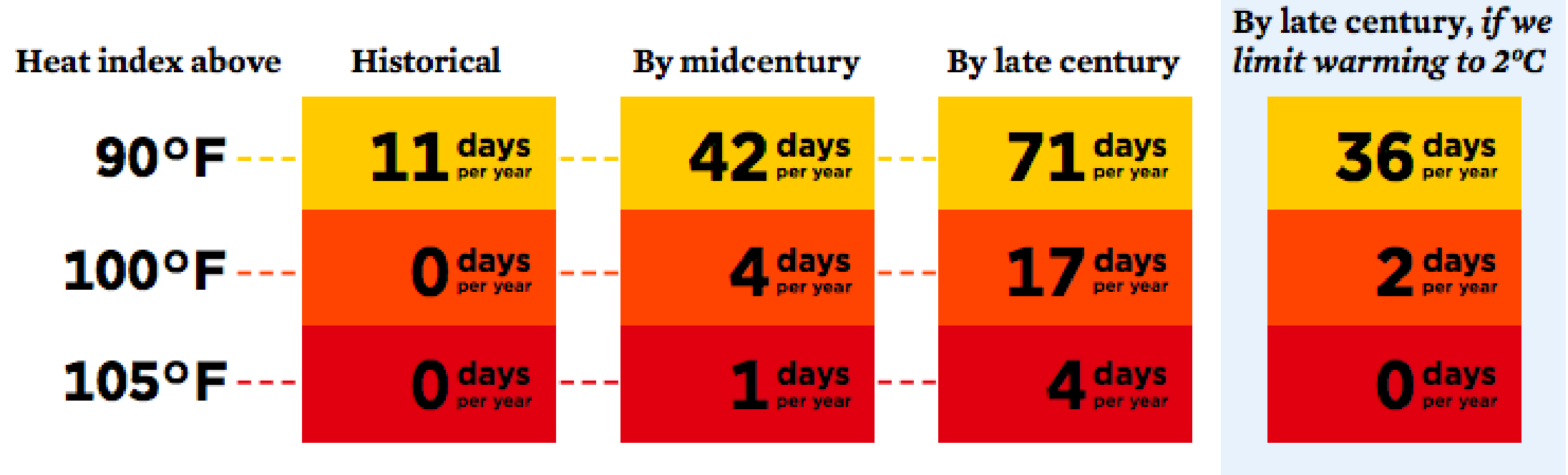
■ >10-25

■ >25-50

■ >50-100

■ >100-200

Annual Days of Extreme Heat Per Year in Utah's 2nd District



With no action to reduce global heat-trapping emissions, the average frequency of extreme heat in this district would rise as shown here. Taking rapid action to reduce emissions and cap future global warming at 2°C (3.6°F) would limit the increase in extreme heat days. For more information and detailed data, visit www.ucsusa.org/killer-heat.

Too Hot to Work



Extreme heat puts outdoor workers' earnings at risk

- By midcentury, outdoor workers' exposure to extreme heat would quadruple, risking \$55.4 billion in annual earnings nationwide.
- Disproportionate impacts on outdoor workers of color
- The average outdoor worker risks losing more than **\$1,700** in annual earnings, though workers in the 10 hardest-hit counties risk losing nearly \$7,000 per year on average.
- Outdoor workers in **construction** and **extraction** occupations are projected to face the highest total earnings at risk at about \$14.4 billion annually, followed by those in installation, maintenance, and repair occupations at nearly \$10.8 billion annually.



National Occupational Safety Standards for Heat

H.R.3668 - Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act of 2019



Federal and local action to create heat protections

- OSHA/DOL National Emphasis Program on heat illness
- Sen. Markey's (D-MA) Preventing Health Emergencies And Temperature-related (HEAT) Illness and Deaths Act
- Congresswoman Coleman's (NJ-12) Stay Cool Act
- Grijalva's (AZ-3) Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act

Questions?

Learn more:

www.ucsusa.org/killer-heat

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/too-hot-to-work>