



**NASEO**

**Weathering Extremes – Smart  
Surfaces Findings and Solutions  
for State and Local Governments**

**February 5, 2026**

# QUIZ

\_\_\_\_\_ kills more people each year:

- A) Tornadoes
- B) Floods
- C) Hurricanes
- D) Heat



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- C) Hurricanes
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**Answer: Annually, heat kills more people than tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes, combined**



# QUIZ

What is the hottest temperature Arizona has ever experienced?

- A. 103 degrees
- B. 112 degrees
- C. 118 degrees
- D. 122 degrees



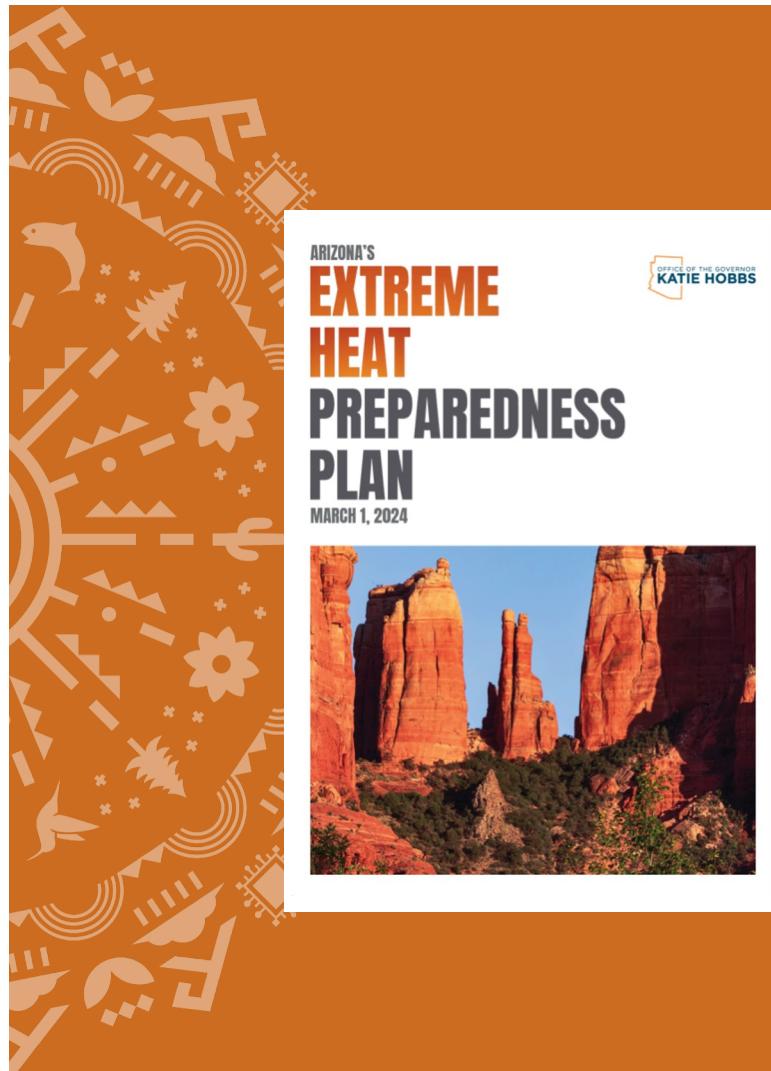
# QUIZ

What is the hottest temperature Arizona has ever experienced?

- A. 103 degrees
- B. 112 degrees
- C. 118 degrees
- D. 122 degrees

**Answer: 122 degrees in 1992**





# Award-winning Heat Plan Overview

Cross-agency preparedness for heat season

Long-term policy and operational  
recommendations

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American Planning Association's **Kenneth C. Topping Innovation Award for 2025**



# 2024 HRD Preliminary Data

976 Preliminary AZ Heat-Related Deaths in 2024



## SUMMARY REPORT OF HEAT-RELATED DEATHS IN 2023

990 Heat-related deaths occurred in Arizona during 2023



Around 65% of the heat-related deaths occurred in Maricopa



The rate of Heat-related deaths among Arizona residents per 100,000 population is highest among La Paz, Mohave and Pima counties



3 out of every 4 heat-related deaths are among males



63% of the heat-related deaths were age 50 years or older



A significant proportion of heat-related deaths occurred during the months of May, June, July, August and September and over 60% of the annual heat-related deaths occurred in the month of July



Over 69% of the Arizona residents who died of heat-related illness during 2023, lived in the state for 20+ years



52% of heat-related deaths involved substance use in 2023





# Energy Affordability

## OOR Programs:

Efficiency Arizona

Arizona Clean Energy Hub

Grid Resilience Grants

EE RLF

Energy affordability study

## Federal funds are critical

LIHEAP, WAP, HOMES and HEAR



# State Energy Security Plan

Plans for a **reliable and resilient supply of energy** through efforts to **identify, assess, and mitigate risks**

Includes plans for **responding to, and recovering from**, events that may disrupt energy supply

The updated plan will include:

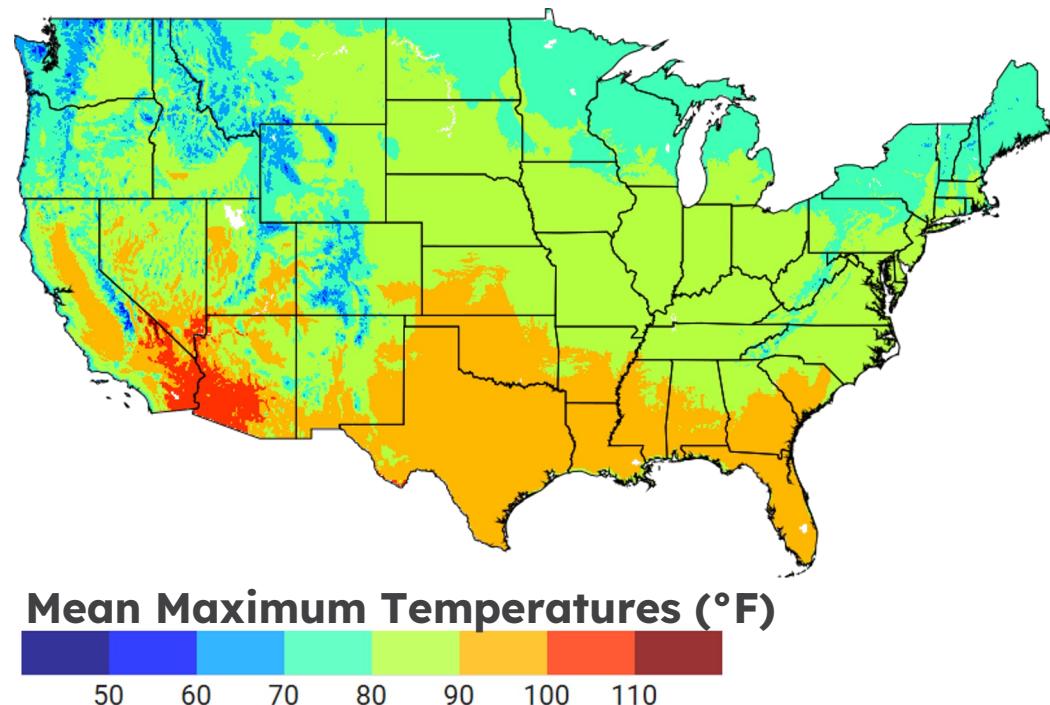
-  Potential man-made hazards and vulnerability discussion
-  Updated risk assessment of critical infrastructure by asset type or system
-  Further discussion on system interdependencies
-  Interagency collaboration to connect existing plans (e.g., Arizona Hazard Mitigation Plan)
-  Strengthening partnerships and coordination with utilities and tribal agencies
-  Expanding nuclear security procedures



# Extreme Heat and Grid Reliability

30-Year Normals (1991–2020)

- In Arizona, from 2018-2022 extreme heat has led to more than 137,000 customer interruptions (Baringa, 2025).
- Extreme heat introduces a **multiple threats** to grid reliability:
  - Increases cooling loads during peak demand hours
  - Reduces transmission and distribution efficiency/output
  - Increases the risk of additional equipment failure and wildfires.



Map Source: NOAA



# Grid Resilience

**Four** grid resilience projects

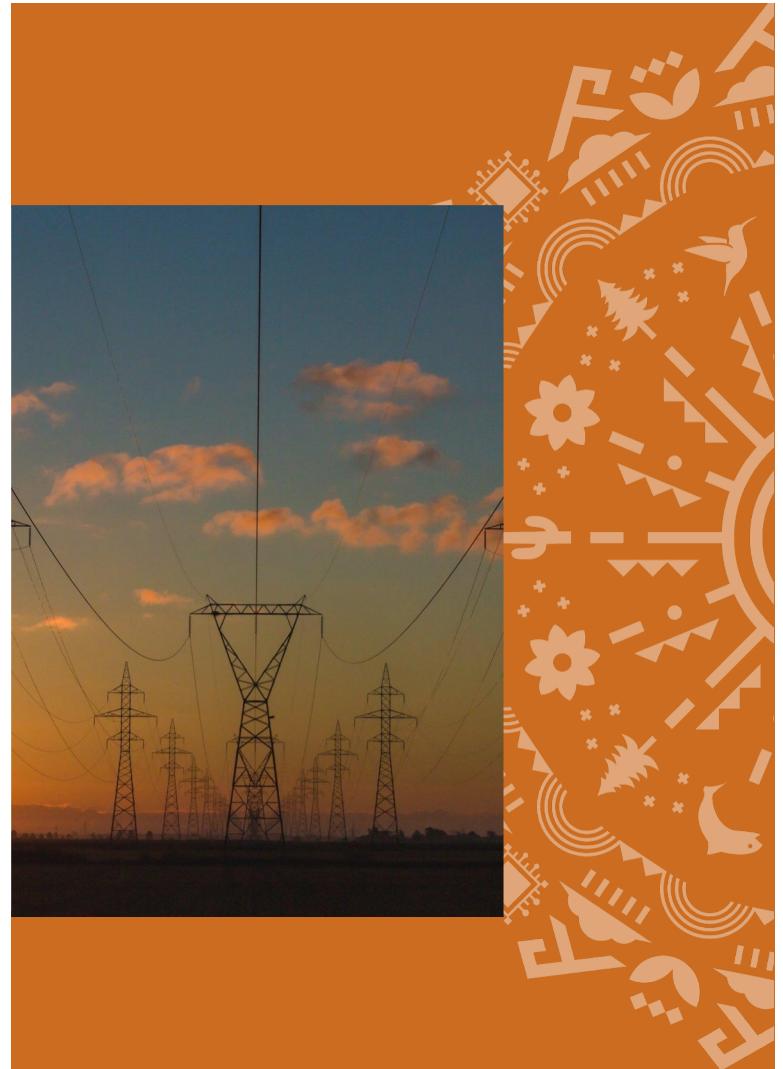
**Expected Benefits:**

Reduces outages for more than

**280,000** Arizonans

Reduces wildfire risk by **20%** in project regions

Developing **Arizona's Grid Resilience Plan** to inform future decision-making



# Partnerships & Initiatives

Regular communication with state agencies, multi-jurisdictional and private sector partners

Statewide Energy/Heat Emergency TTX

Workplace Heat Safety Task Force Recommendations  
specific rules for worker protection

Disconnection moratorium: **June 1st- Oct 15th (ACC regulated IOUs)/Extreme heat days and July-August (Salt River Project)**





## 2026 Executive Budget for Extreme Heat Mitigation

**\$10.0 M GF one-time** to continue critical investments to mitigate the effects of heat on vulnerable Arizonans

Cooling Centers and Heat Relief

Training for Heat Relief

Call Center Operations

Critical Transportation Services

Medical Examiner Database

Heat Deaths in Arizona

