



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 5/7/2024

*\*= Mandatory, information must be provided*

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

**\*Title:**

Heat Awareness Week

**\*Introduction/Background:**

Extreme heat poses significant threats in Southern Arizona, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations such as seniors, children, people of color, and those with health conditions. Pima County is projected to experience increasing days of high temperatures, leading to a rise in heat-related injuries and deaths.

**\*Discussion:**

Nationally, May is recognized as Heat Season Awareness Week, aimed at increasing awareness of extreme heat risks and providing information on preventive measures against heat-related illness and death. Extreme heat waves, particularly during summer, pose a significant threat in Arizona and across the nation, being a leading cause of weather-related fatalities. Extreme heat disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, people of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those with underlying health conditions, who are more susceptible to heat-related health issues. Pima County is forecasted to experience 160 days with temperatures at or above 90°F by 2035. In 2023, extreme heat in Pima County resulted in numerous heat-related injuries and 176 heat-related deaths, leading to heightened healthcare system utilization, including increased emergency department visits and emergency medical services activations. Furthermore, mounting evidence suggests that extreme heat can heighten the risk of adverse birth outcomes, such as preterm birth, low birth weight, fetal death, and infant mortality.

**\*Conclusion:**

Extreme heat in Pima County is a serious public health concern affecting vulnerable residents for over five months yearly, increasing the risks of heat-related illnesses and emergencies, exacerbating chronic conditions, and posing dangers for preterm births and infant mortalities. Pima County is dedicated to proactively reducing heat-related illnesses and strengthening community resilience through targeted interventions, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration.

**\*Recommendation:**

Pima County should proclaim the second week of May (May 6 – 10, 2024) as "HEAT AWARENESS WEEK," urging all citizens to participate in public awareness events and campaigns to raise awareness of heat risks and learn about available heat emergency resources.

**\*Fiscal Impact:**

None

**\*Board of Supervisor District:**

1    2    3    4    5    All

Department: Health

Telephone:

Contact: Dr. Terry Cullen

Telephone: 724-7770

Department Director Signature: hull Date: 04/23/2024  
Deputy County Administrator Signature: [Signature] Date: 23 Apr 2024  
County Administrator Signature: [Signature] Date: 4/24/24

May 7, 2024 - Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Title: *Heat Awareness Week*

**RESOLUTION 2024 - \_\_\_\_\_**

**PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF ‘HEAT AWARENESS WEEK’**

**WHEREAS**, the second week of May has been designated as Heat Awareness Week to raise awareness of the risk of extreme heat, and to provide information about preparedness actions to take to prevent heat-related illness and death; and

**WHEREAS**, extreme heat waves during the summer months pose one of the biggest weather-related threats to life in the State of Arizona and is the leading weather-related killer nationally, and

**WHEREAS**, extreme heat disproportionately affects our most vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, people of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, low-income individuals, and those with heart disease, diabetes, respiratory illness, and other health conditions which are particularly susceptible to heat; and

**WHEREAS**, Pima County is projected to experience 160 days of temperatures at or above 90°F by 2035;

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 extreme heat caused thousands of heat related injuries and 176 heat-related deaths in Pima County leading to increased healthcare system utilization, including rises in emergency department visits and emergency medical services activations; and

**WHEREAS**, there is increasing evidence that extreme heat can elevate the risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, fetal death, and infant mortality;

**WHEREAS**, Pima County will develop and enact other policy recommendations, to include the potential development and consideration of ordinances, or procedural modifications to assure heat protections for worker safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Pima County Office of Climate and Environmental Justice and County departments, will work to incorporate Heat Resilience and Response into its comprehensive Climate Action Plans, as directed by the Pima County Administrator and the Climate Action Executive Team.

Additionally, work with area-jurisdiction and community partners to create and deploy a comprehensive heat response in alignment with state initiatives and increase public awareness on the dangers of extreme heat.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the second week of May to be:

**“HEAT AWARENESS WEEK”**

And during this event all citizens are urged to join in all County and partner agency-directed public awareness events and campaigns to bring awareness to heat risks and learn about heat emergency resources available to the community.

The board encourages all County residents to take appropriate preparation and response measures to protect themselves against heat-related illnesses. Residents should learn to recognize the signs of heat illness, know where to get reliable information, and identify cool places in their community, such as libraries or shopping malls, where they can seek respite from the heat. It's important to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated, never leave people or pets in a closed car, and regularly check on family members, older adults, and neighbors. Remember: Stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay informed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney