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**NEWS
RELEASE**

05/29/2025

City Activates Cooling Centers, Promotes Heat Safety for National Heat Awareness Day

City Renews Partnership with Extreme Weather Task Force to Protect Public as Summer Heat Begins

EL PASO, Texas—As temperatures begin to climb, the City of El Paso and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are urging residents to take precautions against extreme heat and are activating cooling centers across the city to help protect the community from heat-related illness and injury.

These efforts coincide with National Heat Awareness Day, observed on May 30, which serves as a vital reminder of the dangers that high temperatures pose—especially for the most vulnerable.

In coordination with the Department of Public Health, OEM, the El Paso Fire Department, and the Extreme Weather Task Force (EWTF), the City is launching a multi-agency public awareness effort to educate residents about how to stay safe during the summer heat.

EXTREME WEATHER TASK FORCE PRESS CONFERENCE

To reinforce public awareness and community preparedness, the City of El Paso is once again partnering with the Extreme Weather Task Force to host a **Summer Safety Press Conference at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 5, 2025, at Fire Station No. 5, 400 Revere.**

The press conference will highlight seasonal safety guidance, the dangers of extreme heat, and the launch of the annual Fan Drive, which provides free box fans to elderly or disabled residents in need. Officials from the City, OEM, EWTF, and regional emergency and health partners will be available for interviews following the briefing.

ABOUT THE CITY'S COOLING CENTERS

The cooling centers provide a safe, indoor, air-conditioned space for individuals and families to take refuge from the heat. The centers are a joint effort between OEM, the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, El Paso Public Libraries, and the Extreme Weather Task Force.

The following **Recreation Centers** will be available Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Closed on Sundays:

- Valle Bajo (7380 Alameda)
- Marty Robbins (11600 Vista Del Sol)
- Galatzan (650 Wallenberg)
- Nations Tobin (8831 Railroad)

The following **Public Libraries** will be available Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday: 1 to 6 p.m. (Main Library only):

- Armijo Library (620 E. 7th)
- Clardy Fox (5515 Robert Alva)
- Dorris Van Doren (551 Redd)
- Esperanza Moreno (12480 Pebble Hills)
- Irving Schwartz (1865 Dean Martin)
- Jose Cisneros/Cielo Vista (1300 Hawkins)
- Judge Marquez (610 N. Yarbrough)
- Main Library (501 N. Oregon)
- Memorial Park (3200 Copper)
- Richard Burges (9600 Dyer Ste. C)
- Sergio Troncoso (9321 Alameda)
- Westside (125 Belvidere)

—more—



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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In addition to City facilities, residents are encouraged to seek relief from the heat by visiting local malls and shopping centers during regular business hours, which provide air-conditioned environments to rest and rehydrate.

KNOW THE SIGNS AND TAKE ACTION

Public Health officials emphasize that infants, young children, older adults, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses, which include heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Some of the signs and symptoms are:

- Heavy sweating, nausea, muscle cramps
- Dizziness, fainting, or confusion
- Pale, clammy skin or a rapid, weak pulse
- In severe cases: high body temperature, unconsciousness

Anyone experiencing signs of **heat stroke** should call **9-1-1** immediately and be moved to a cooler place.

SIMPLE PREVENTION TIPS

Residents are encouraged to:

- Stay hydrated with non-sugary, non-alcoholic fluids
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and wide-brimmed hats
- Avoid outdoor activities during peak heat hours
- Stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces when possible
- Use sunscreen and take frequent breaks if working outdoors
- **Never** leave children, elderly individuals, or pets unattended in a parked vehicle—even with windows cracked or the AC running

Use the **Buddy System** to check on neighbors, co-workers, or relatives who may be at greater risk. This can make all the difference in preventing heat-related tragedy.

PROTECTING PETS

Pet owners should:

- Ensure pets have access to **shade and fresh water**
- Avoid walking pets on hot pavement
- Keep pets indoors during the hottest parts of the day
- **Never leave pets alone in parked vehicles**

Veterinarians also recommend testing pets for heartworm during warm months.

FAN DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

The **Extreme Weather Task Force** is accepting **fan donations** at all El Paso and Horizon Fire Stations. Residents in need of a fan may dial **2-1-1** to check eligibility and receive assistance.

For after-hours help or overnight shelter referrals, residents can call **3-1-1**. For emergencies, always dial **9-1-1**. More tips and resources are available at www.ElPasoReady.org/extreme-heat and EPHealth.com under the "Be Climate Ready" tab.

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