



Adam Gray/AP Photo

FILE - A person uses an umbrella to shield themselves from the sun during a heat advisory in Central Park on May 19 in New York.

What makes a 'heat dome' and what does it mean?

BY ALEXA ST. JOHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

These unbearably hot and humid summer months that put millions of people across the globe at risk are typically made possible by phenomena known as heat domes.

Heat domes can make already-high temperatures even more extreme and prolonged, and they are worsening in severity and becoming more frequent as the planet warms.

Here's what to know. **What makes up a heat dome, and what does it do?**

Heat domes are essentially high-pressure systems hovering above a region that trap heat and humidity, experts say.

They result from the northward flow of warm air. That system sends air sinking, pressure increasing and temperatures rising.

"The concept of a heat dome really means that the air in this region is so warm, and we know that warm air expands," said Jennifer Francis, a climate scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center. "It basically means that the layers of the atmosphere are bulging upward as well."

Simply put, heat domes cause heat waves. They're associated with very dry, sunny conditions that last for multiple days at a time, trap heat at the surface and help to amplify it, said Zachary Labe, climate scientist at

Climate Central, an independent collective of scientists.

HOW HAS HEAT AFFECTED THE WORLD THIS YEAR?

Heat impacted various regions of the world early in 2026.

The continental United States registered its most abnormally hot month in 132 years of records in March, with record-shattering extremes first in the Southwest and then across the rest of the nation. Heat scorched the French Open and scorched parts of India in May. Extreme heat has since been top of mind for the World Cup across the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Starting mid-June, Europe has baked under unseasonable highs of around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in many places due to a heat dome.

Now, much of the Eastern U.S. is expected to be slammed by a long heat wave in the coming days, and already, much of the Southwest is experiencing temperatures around 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) this week and those temperatures could reach elsewhere by the Fourth of July holiday.

WHAT ROLE DOES CLIMATE CHANGE PLAY?

Science shows that as the planet warms — the result of humans burning coal, oil and gas — heat waves get worse, last longer and become more frequent.

"Heat waves like this

are so directly connected to the climate crisis and climate change," Francis said, "and it's because of how we've been burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests for so long and increasing the concentration of heat-trapping gasses in the atmosphere.

"These kinds of heat waves and droughts and associated fires are all increasing just as we would expect them to in a warming world," she said.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

Experts say people need to stay hydrated when sweltering heat and humidity hit.

Be sure to avoid outdoor exercise in the heat of the day — and find shade, or if you can, access to air conditioning. Some cities offer resources and cooling centers to provide relief.

Cooling off in nearby pools or bodies of water can also help.

Heat domes can make it difficult to fully recover from high temperatures at night, so finding ways to stay cool during the day and evening hours are important.

"It's those night times — especially, locations and people, who don't have access to adequate cooling, really need to be aware of the impacts that added heat stress will have and their body's ability not to be able to cool down," Labe said, "because humidity is going to be a really key factor in boosting those heat impacts."

WEBSTER

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Aaron Daniel Gamblin - entry on land to shoot/hunt/fish/trap without consent; dismissed

Anthony Comrie - violation of EPO/DVO; dismissed

Tiffany Guinn - hindering prosecution or apprehension; 365 days probated 2 years, pay fine and costs

William Mahue Jackson - possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; complete MEPS

Emily Major - 2nd degree cruelty to animals; 90 days probated 2 years, pay fine and costs

Timothy James Neace - harassment; no contact with victim

John Oakley - driving on suspended or revoked

license; 30 days probated 2 years, pay fine and costs

Christian Scott Ratliff - owner permitting vicious dog to run at large; deferred one year

Jackson Flores Palacios - reporting false incident to law enforcement; deferred

Ira Travis Billings - 2 counts 4th degree assault, 1st degree strangulation; 365 days to serve, pay costs

Ira Travis Billings - violation of EPO/DVO; 365 days probated 2 years

Chasetyn Warren - theft by failure to make required disposition of property \$1K<\$10K; possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; 45 days probated 2 years, pay fines and costs

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ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY SERVICE AMBULANCE DISTRICT, IMPOSING AN EMERGENCY SERVICE AMBULANCE DISTRICT TAX, AND CREATING AN EMERGENCY SERVICE AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD

WHEREAS, the City of Providence Fire Department provides emergency response ambulance service to the citizens of Providence; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Providence has determined it necessary to establish an Emergency Service Ambulance District within the city limits of the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Providence has determined it necessary to impose an Emergency Service Ambulance District Board to oversee the affairs of the Emergency Service Ambulance District subject to the powers and limitations granted herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Providence, Webster County, Kentucky that Ordinance 2026-02, is enacted as follows:

SECTION 1 - ESTABLISHMENT AND DETERMINATION:

(A) The City Council of the City of Providence, pursuant to KRS 108.105, hereby creates an ambulance service district encompassing the entirety of the city limits of the City of Providence.

(B) The City Council of the City of Providence, pursuant to KRS 108.105, hereby creates an ambulance service tax of ten cents (\$0.10) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of full assessed valuation upon all property located within the city and subject to said tax.

(C) The city tax will be collected in the manner provided for in KRS 108.100(4) and shall be used solely for maintenance and operation of the citywide ambulance service district herein created.

(D) All taxes which are not paid pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be subject to a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the principal amount of the tax together with interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum.

(E) The City Council of the City of Providence, pursuant to KRS 108.110, hereby creates the affairs of the ambulance service district shall be operated by an Ambulance Board, as set forth herein.

SECTION 2 - APPOINTMENT TO THE AMBULANCE BOARD:

Members of the Ambulance Board shall be appointed in accordance with KRS 65.8811, as relevant, as follows:

(A) The Ambulance Board shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members who shall be appointed by the Mayor (Executive Authority) of the City of Providence, subject to the approval of the City Council of Providence.

(B) The initial appointment to the Ambulance Board shall be as follows:

(1) One-third (1/3) of the membership shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year.

(2) One-third (1/3) of the membership shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and

(3) One-third (1/3) of the membership shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

(C) All subsequent appointments shall be made for a term of three (3) years.

(D) Any vacancy on the Ambulance Board shall be filled within sixty (60) days by the Mayor (Executive Authority) of the City of Providence, subject to the approval of the City Council of Providence.

(E) Any member of the Ambulance Board may be removed by the appointing authority for misconduct, inefficiency or willful neglect of duty. Any appointing authority exercising the power to remove a member of the Ambulance Board shall submit a written statement to the member and to the City Council of the City of Providence, setting forth the reasons for removal. The member so removed shall have the right of appeal to the Circuit Court.

SECTION 3 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS

The Ambulance Board shall provide ambulance service to inhabitants of the City of Providence and shall have the authority to:

(A) Purchase ambulance vehicles and all other necessary equipment and employ trained personnel which meet all federal and state requirements;

(B) Adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectively and efficiently provide emergency ambulance services for the city;

(C) Apply for and receive available funds from the state and federal government for the purpose of maintaining or improving emergency ambulance services for the city;

(D) Acquire by bequests, gifts, grant or purchase the real or personal property necessary to provide emergency ambulance services. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the City of Providence to use the same or similar avenues of providing real or personal property necessary to provide emergency services to its citizens.

(E) Establish an equitable system of service charges to be collected from the persons receiving emergency ambulance service from the city. The rate of the service charges shall be fixed in such amounts as can be reasonably expected to yield revenues not in excess of the costs of operation and maintenance of the system and for adequate depreciation funds; and

(F) The Ambulance Board SHALL NOT have the authority to contract with private persons, partnerships, corporations, or any other entity for the purpose of providing ambulance services to residents of the City of Providence for any purpose except as approved by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Providence.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and superseded to the extent of such conflict.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its legal adoption.

Thomas P. Glover
Thomas P. Glover, Mayor

06-15-26
Date

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

I, Tiffany Conrad, Clerk of the City of Providence, Webster County, Kentucky hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of Ordinance 2025-021, "An Ordinance Establishing an Emergency Service Ambulance District, Imposing an Emergency Service Ambulance District Tax, and Creating an Emergency Service Ambulance District Board" passed the 15 of June, 2026 effective the 15 of June, 2026, and that I am the custodian of the original which is maintained at: Providence City Clerk's Office, Providence Municipal Building, 201 East Main Street, Providence, Webster County, Kentucky.

Tiffany Conrad
Tiffany Conrad, City Clerk

06-15-26
Date