



Inclement Weather Policy

ID 25-1366

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A vibrant mural on a wall, featuring a large blue bird with white and yellow accents on its wings, surrounded by large yellow and pink flowers. The mural is set against a background of green foliage. The entire image is framed by a diagonal border with blue, white, and red stripes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background

- Policy 500.07 was created in 2019.
- Inclement weather days are defined in the policy:
 - Temperature low is expected to fall below 32 degrees,
 - Temperature high is expected to exceed 100 degrees,
 - The City has declared an emergency for weather conditions such as snow/ice, hail, severe flooding, etc.
- Most City facilities with public access to restrooms, water fountains, and a sitting area were designated as warming/cooling stations
- Opening conditions were consistent with Monsignor King Outreach Center (MKOC) and Salvation Army shelters at the time of policy approval (the Denton Community Shelter opened in 2022).

Background

- Since opening, the Denton Community Shelter has been the City's designated overnight inclement weather shelter in practice, but not in policy.
- Our Daily Bread has elected to expand overnight capacity to allow all who are seeking shelter when the following are true:
 - The Heat Index is forecasted to be at or higher than 100°F outside of Day Shelter hours (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.); or
 - The Wind Chill is forecasted to be at or lower than 32°F outside of Day Shelter hours.
- There is currently no contractual requirement to open the shelter overnight for inclement weather (to be added into the agreement).

Agenda

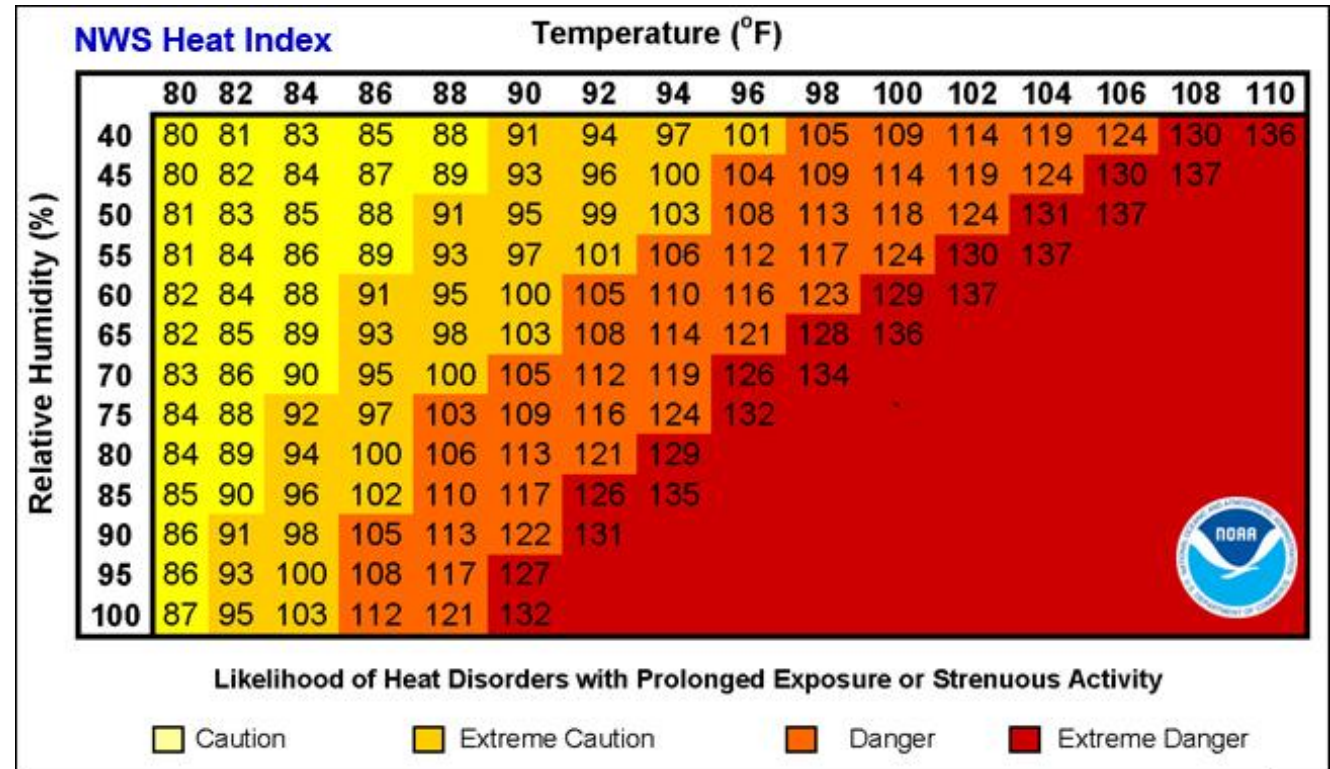
- Seeking Council direction:
 - Inclement Weather designation
- Proposed administrative updates:
 - Updating Inclement Weather Stations (Cooling/Warming Stations)
 - Designation of the Denton Community Shelter as the City's overnight inclement weather shelter

Designate emergency overnight shelter

- Update the policy to indicate the Denton Community Shelter as the overnight emergency shelter from inclement weather.
 - Contract would be negotiated to include requirements and specify the use of funding for the purpose of emergency overnight shelter for all individuals.

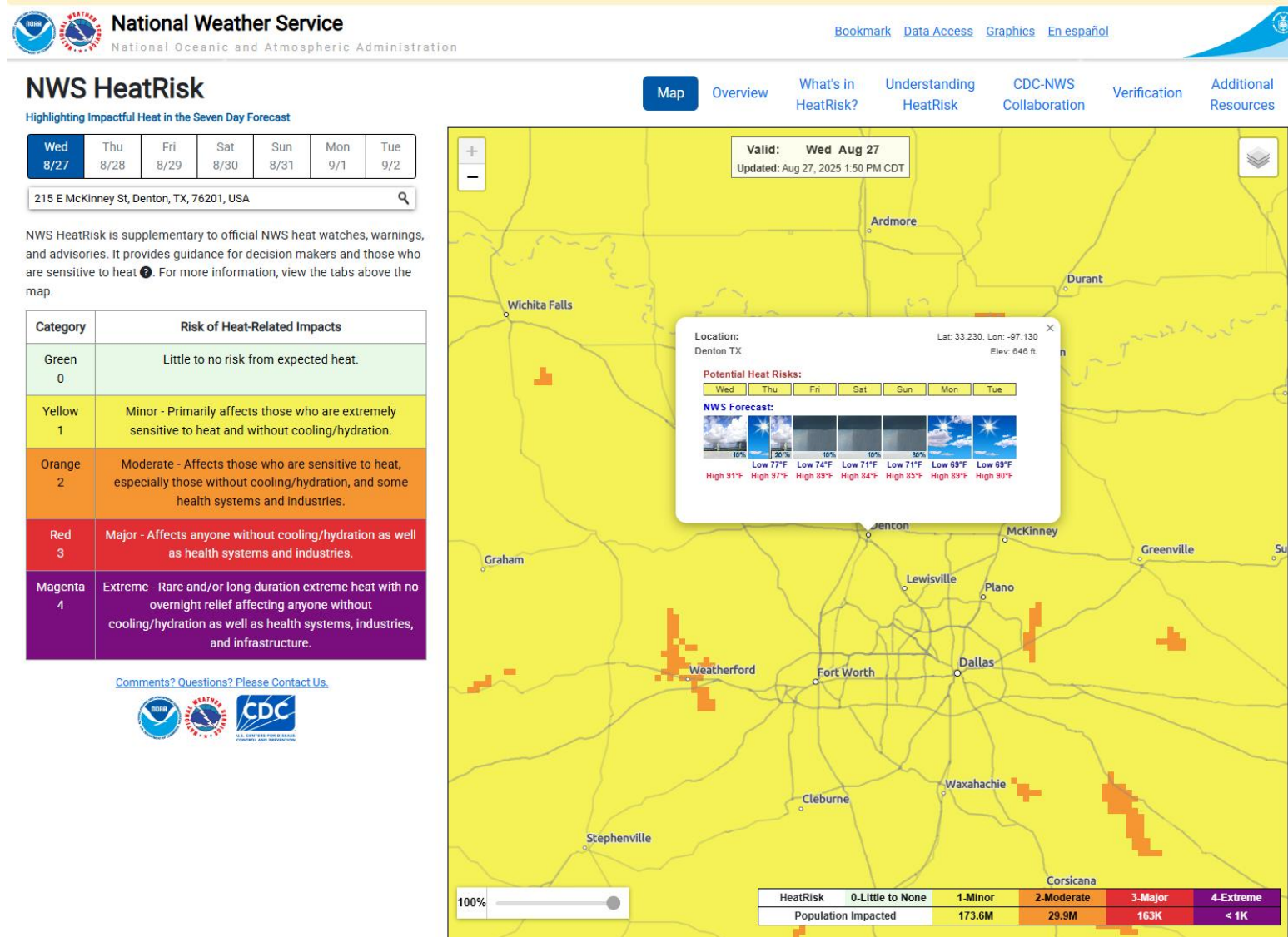
Heat Index

- The Heat Index is a measure of how hot it feels when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.
- National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Heat Advisory when Heat Index is expected to reach 105°F or higher, or the air temperature is forecasted to exceed 103°F for at least two consecutive days.



Heat Risk

Uses health-based temperature thresholds that were provided by CDC with local temperature parameters to devise a numeric and color-coded alert system for the risk of Heat Related Illness (HRI).

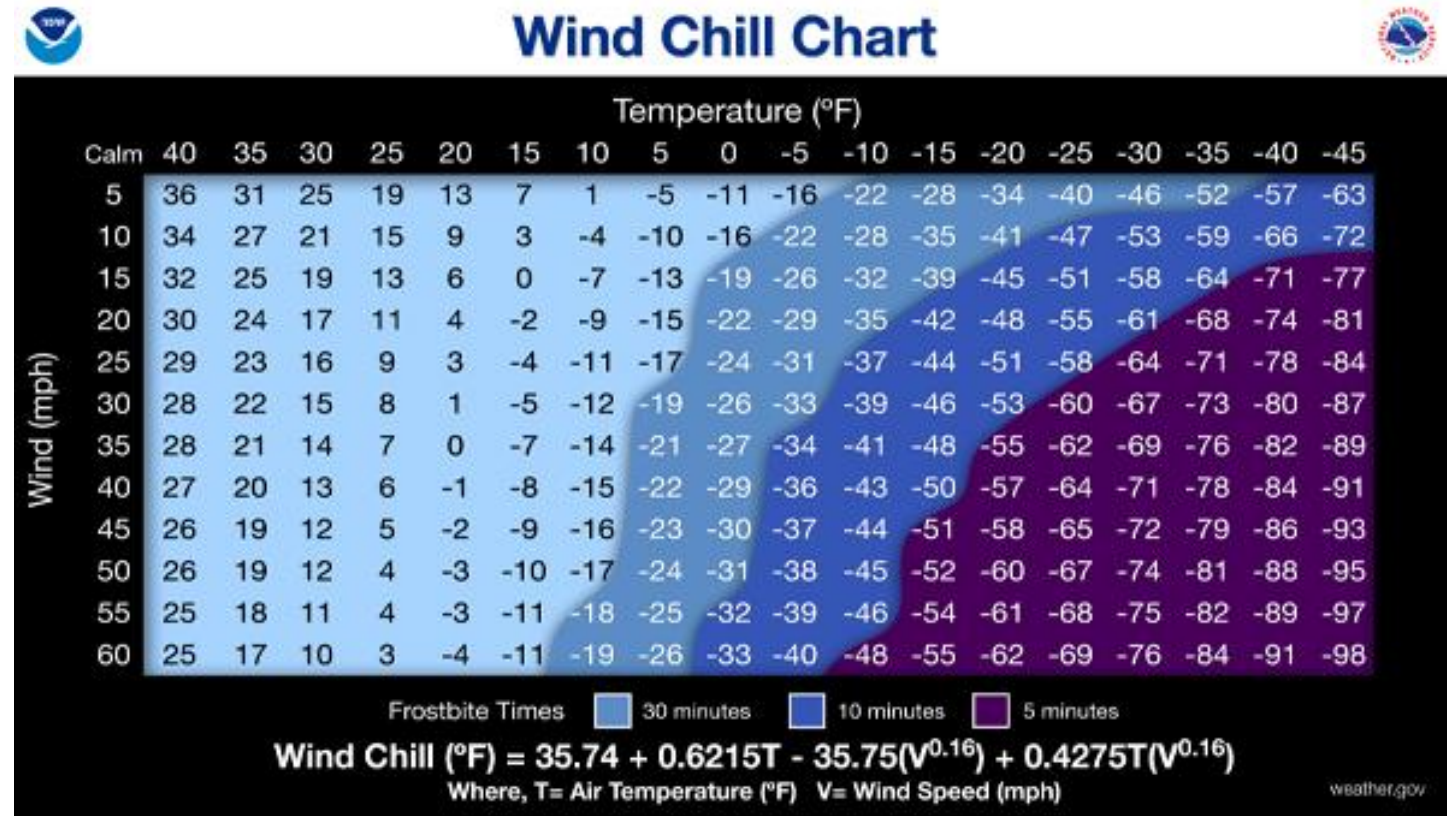


Inclement weather designation: Heat

Overnight shelter trigger	Number of days 2024	Difference from Policy	Difference from Practice
Current policy (100°F Ambient temperature)	26	-	-12
Current practice (100°F Heat index after 7p.m.)	38	12	-
Heat Index (100°F Heat index high at any time)	57	31	19
Heat Risk (Value > 2)	62	36	24

Wind Chill

- Wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by wind and cold.
- NWS begins issuing Cold Weather Advisories once the Wind Chill reaches 10°F and below



Inclement weather designation: Cold

Overnight shelter trigger	Number of days 2024	Difference from Policy	Difference from Practice
Current policy ($\leq 32^{\circ}\text{F}$ Ambient temperature)	35	-	-12
Current practice ($\leq 32^{\circ}\text{F}$ Wind Chill)	47	12	-
Inclusion of Precipitation ($\leq 40^{\circ}\text{F}$ Wind Chill and two inches or more of precipitation in a 24-hour period)	47	12	-

Updating Inclement Weather Stations

- Updating language in the Policy to match public communications.
- Updating to include newly constructed and previously omitted buildings that meet the criteria of public access to restrooms, water fountains, and a sitting area were designated as warming/cooling stations:
 - Fire Station 3
 - Fire Station 8
 - Development Services Center
 - City Hall

Staff recommendation and Council direction

- Staff recommends making all administrative changes to align policy with current practices
- Seeking Council direction to maintain or change Inclement Weather Designations:
 - From ambient temperature high to a staff recommended Heat Risk escalation system or straight heat index.
 - From ambient temperature low to overnight Wind Chill, or overnight Wind Chill including precipitation.