

# DAILY REPUBLIC

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN, CALIFORNIA

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## Solano, west prepare for heat wave

By Staff and wire reports

From page A1 | June 28, 2013 | Leave Comment

FAIRFIELD — The biggest heat wave of the year is here.

The National Weather Service forecasts highs in the upper 90s in Fairfield-Suisun into the weekend, possibly going into triple digits Sunday and Monday. Vacaville's highs are forecast to go beyond 100 for each of the next five days.

The high on Thursday in Fairfield was 96 degrees.

There is an excessive heat watch starting Sunday afternoon and lasting until Wednesday afternoon – meaning it will be July 4 before the temperatures fall.

Solano isn't alone. There is a massive heat wave across the entire West – temperatures will likely hit 120 in the deserts, authorities said. Notoriously hot Death Valley's forecast calls for 129 degrees, not far off the world-record high of 134 logged there July 10, 1913. The National Weather Service called for 118 in Phoenix, and 117 in Las Vegas on Sunday – a mark reached only twice in Sin City.

Experts warned people to stay out of the sun, wear broad-brimmed hats outdoors, drink lots of water and avoid putting pets and children in parked cars where the temperature can quickly soar. Drivers who might find themselves stuck in a hot car should carry extra sunglasses, water, snacks and any prescription medications they may need, said Ken Kondo, a program specialist with the Office of Emergency Management of Los Angeles County's Chief Executive Office.

"You never know what could happen," he said.

The hottest temperatures all over the West are expected on Saturday and Sunday before beginning to ease, but it still will be above-average through Tuesday, said NWS specialist Stuart Seto.

The high pressure system was centered over New Mexico but was moving westward.

"It's a huge one," Seto said. "We haven't seen one like this for several years, probably the mid- to late 2000s."

The pressure causes air to sink and warm, drawing down humidity.

"As the air warms, it can hold more moisture, and so what that does is take out the clouds," Seto said.

The California Independent System Operator, which runs the state's power grid, expected to cope with any surge in

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demand from the heat.

Demand usually drops on weekends as office buildings and some manufacturers shut down, and if there's a surge, the system can bring more generators online and call a Flex Alert, where some customers voluntarily reduce their usage, spokesman Steven Greenlee said.

"We've been preparing all year for the summer," he said. "At least for the short term . . . it looks like we're going to be OK."

However, Greenlee said the long-range forecast is for above-average temperatures through August. The grid also could be stressed in case of a disaster.

"All we need is another big wildfire or two that's going to take transmissions lines out," he said. "That's the risk that all of a sudden can turn not very good pretty fast."

Meteorologists are calling for highs at or above 112 through Wednesday in Las Vegas, and there isn't even relief when the sun goes down. Sunday night's low is forecast to be 92 degrees – enough to make for a stuffy stroll down the Strip at whatever hour tourists leave the bar.

While the Southwest boasts the most alarming temperatures, the heat wave is driving up the mercury all over the West. Western Washington – better known for rainy coffee shop weather – should break the 90s early next week, according to the weather service.

Dry southern Utah is forecast to reach higher than 110 degrees, and northern Utah – which markets "the greatest snow on Earth" – is also expected to hit the triple digits.

The hottest cities in the West are taking precautions to protect vulnerable residents during the sizzle. Police are pleading with drivers not to leave babies or pets in vehicles, and temporary cooling stations are popping up to shelter homeless people and seniors on fixed incomes who hesitate to use the air conditioning.



**Staff and wire reports**

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