



## **Frequently Asked Questions for Extreme Heat Weather Event**

### **What conditions prompt the activation of cooling centers?**

[City code](#) requires cooling spaces for homeless individuals when temperatures are [forecast](#) by the National Weather Service to reach 95 degrees or higher for two or more days, but anyone is welcome to access the spaces.

### **How can the community help during this time?**

Just like we check on our neighbors, friends, and family during any challenging event, we need to do the same with heat. If you can help someone, please do. Donations of water, Gatorade/Powerade, single pack snacks and mini sunscreen products are accepted through August and those interested can email Emergency Management Director Sarah Nuss at [snuss@spokanecity.org](mailto:snuss@spokanecity.org). Meanwhile, Meals on Wheels Spokane, 1222 W. Second Ave., is accepting new or unopened fans for homebound senior citizens.

### **Why are library locations being utilized as cooling spaces (in addition to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center, TRAC, and other shelter locations when shelter is needed)?**

- Located throughout the City, Libraries provide convenient neighborhood access.
  - Central (906 W. Main St.), Shadle Park (2111 W. Wellesley Ave.), Liberty Park (402 S. Pittsburg St.), Hillyard (4110 N. Cook St.), South Hill (3324 S. Perry St.) and Indian Trail (4909 W. Barnes Road). Libraries are open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday–Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. Sunday.
- Equipped with restrooms and drinking fountains as well as water bottle fillers.
- Provides FREE access to wi-fi connectivity, books, technology, and play areas.
- Libraries are always open to the public.
- Maximizing current facilities is cost-effective to provide relief to City residents.
- It is a great opportunity for those who have never accessed libraries to learn more about them.

### **How many people can the libraries provide cooling space for?**

The total capacity for the six library locations available for cooling centers is 2,118.

### **How many people can be served when shelter is needed at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC)?**

TRAC, at 4320 E. Trent Ave., has the capacity to flex to 400 people during hazardous weather. Check <https://sheltermespokane.org> for updated citywide shelter occupancy information as reported by shelter operators. The Trent center opened last fall as a safe, healthy indoor facility that has separated spaces for different demographics to stay indoors out of the elements with access to showers,

restrooms, and three meals daily. It also offers cool space, supplemental hydration resources and snacks.

### **What other facilities are available as a cooling center?**

Other organizations are in conversations with the City about participating and those will be announced when logistics are finalized.

### **What resources are available at City parks?**

Splash pads are great places to cool down for free. [Splash pads](#) are operational daily from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. at 19 parks. The City's six aquatic centers offer free open swimming. The pools are open June 20 – Aug. 25. Hours for open swim are Mondays – Saturdays, 1-4 p.m., with evening open swim available at rotational pools. Check the schedule, and sign up for your free Splash Pass at [SpokaneParks.org/aquatics](http://SpokaneParks.org/aquatics). Visit the list of [drinking fountains in Parks](#). All efforts are made to keep splash pads, pools, and drinking fountains open, but on occasion, they may be closed due to vandalism or maintenance. Call [509.625.6960](tel:509.625.6960) to report any issues and to check hours and closures.

### **Why aren't schools being used for hazard sheltering?**

Most of the schools are already programmed with summer activities and don't have the staffing to accommodate the services needed on short notice with an undetermined amount of time.

### **Is there a way for people to be transported to a shelter, library, or park?**

Libraries and parks are located throughout the community, near Spokane Transit Authority bus stops and within walking distance. STA provides paratransit transportation for those who qualify. STA will offer fare exceptions to riders going to a cooling space when the temperature is 95 degrees or above. If a passenger boards a bus and indicates they do not have fare payment, and that they are traveling to a cooling space, STA will allow them to ride for free. This practice remains in effect for same-day return trips during evening hours even after the temperature drops below 95 degrees. Additionally, the Salvation Army has vans that can meet people where they are at 24-7 and help them connect to local shelters. Call 509-280-6860 or 509-280-6894 for a ride.

### **How will people know these locations are available?**

Information will be pushed out to media and to our network of partners to amplify the information.

- Local media releases
- City of Spokane website
- Social media and digital channels with City, Spokane Public Library, Spokane Parks and Recreation
- Human services partner outreach
- Schools outreach

### **Are there other resources besides the libraries, parks and the Trent Resource and Assistance Center?**

Spokane has a great network of assistance.

- [My Spokane 311](#)
- [211](#)
- [SNAP Homeless Resource Guide](#)
- City's [Hazard Sheltering page](#)

- [Spokane Homeless Coalition](#)
- [Spokane Regional Health District](#)

### **How big of a concern is heat-related injuries or deaths?**

Heat was the leading [weather-related cause of deaths](#) in the nation in 2022, according to the National Weather Service.

### **What should people do during heat waves to avoid heat-related illnesses?**

Residents are urged to drink water, wear light-colored clothing, apply sunscreen and to not leave kids or pets in vehicles. They are also urged to take advantage of public cooling spaces such as libraries, the Trent Resource and Assistance Center, other shelters, splash pads and malls.