

Heat wave blasts Pacific Northwest

Associated Press

PORTLAND — With an unprecedented and dangerous heat wave gripping the Pacific Northwest, Seattle, Portland and other cities broke all-time heat records over the weekend, with temperatures soaring well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Forecasters had predicted Monday would be worse, with temperatures possibly hitting 110 in Seattle and 115 in the Portland area before cooling down on Tuesday.

Officials in Portland shut down light rail and street cars due to high temperatures, and districts halted summer school bus service.

In Eugene, the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials were halted Sunday afternoon and fans were asked to evacuate the stadium due to extreme heat. The National Weather Service said it hit 110 in Eugene, breaking the all-time record of 108.

Portland reached 112 degrees on Sunday, breaking the all-time temperature record of 108, which was set just a day earlier.

The temperature hit 104 in Seattle. The weather service said that was an all-time record for the city better known for rain than heat and was the first time the area recorded two consecutive triple digit days since records began being kept in 1894.

The heat wave stretched into British Columbia, with the temperature in Lytton, a village in the Canadian province, reaching 115 Sunday afternoon, marking a new all-time high recorded in Canada.

The heat wave also moved into Idaho, where temperatures above 100 degrees were forecast in Boise for at least seven days starting Monday.

Cities were reminding residents where pools,



Mark Graves/The Oregonian

While Portland broke heat records throughout the weekend, people gathered at Salmon Street Springs water fountain to cool off.

splash pads and cooling centers were available and urged people to stay hydrated, check on their neighbors and avoid strenuous activities.

The National Weather Service in Coeur d'Alene said this week's weather "will likely be one of the most extreme and prolonged heat waves in the recorded history of the Inland Northwest."

The extreme weather was caused by an extended "heat dome" parked over the Pacific Northwest. Kristie Ebi, a professor at the Uni-

versity of Washington who studies global warming and its effects on public health, says the dayslong heat wave was a taste of the future as climate change reshapes global weather patterns.

In Portland, authorities said the high heat was straining the power grid and overhead wires that propel the MAX trains, so service was being suspended through Tuesday morning.

"The MAX system is designed to operate in conditions up to 110 degrees. Forecasts show it will likely only get hotter," the agency

said in a statement.

In eastern Washing-

ton state, the Richland and Kennewick school districts

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halted bus service for summer school because the vehicles aren't air-conditioned, making it unsafe for students.

Cooling centers were opened across the region and people flocked to them in Seattle, where only about 44% of households have air conditioning, according to census figures.

In Issaquah, Washington, an outage Sunday afternoon left thousands without power, and some went to a community center cooling station.

Donna Meade told The Seattle Times that going forward: "I will get air conditioning. I thought I could live through the heat, but nope. We still have July, August and the smoke to get through."

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