



Media Statement
Councilman John Courage

Last year was extraordinary, a record year for high daily temperatures, heat-related illnesses, and deaths in San Antonio. As our city continues to experience rising temperatures due to climate change, the safety and well-being of San Antonio residents remain a top priority. The City of San Antonio has taken proactive steps to combat the threat of heat-related illnesses, particularly heat stroke, which poses a danger during our hottest months.

To protect our most vulnerable communities, we have expanded cooling centers across the city, ensuring every neighborhood can access a safe, air-conditioned space during extreme heat events. These centers, including libraries, community centers, and senior centers, are open to all residents needing respite from the heat.

In addition, the city has launched public health campaigns to educate the community on recognizing the early signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, the importance of hydration, and the need to check on vulnerable neighbors, particularly the elderly. We have also worked closely with first responders to enhance rapid response to heat-related emergencies, ensuring rapid EMS medical response for those affected.

Our outreach efforts emphasize the need to avoid outdoor activities during peak heat hours and seek shelter in designated cooling centers. Workers in the building and construction fields should be given frequent water and shade breaks and follow the OSHA guidelines for working in high-temperature conditions.

We also encourage all city public-facing personnel to watch for and report excessive heat-related conditions or signs that may threaten the health and safety of vulnerable outdoor residents and laborers. We are continuously working to integrate heat emergency preparedness into San Antonio's long-term planning, helping us build a more resilient city in the face of future extreme weather events.

These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to safeguarding the health of our community and ensuring that no one is left vulnerable to the dangers of extreme heat.