

## Whatcom News

June 26, 2021 at 1:02pm

A National Weather Service (NWS) Seattle office Excessive Heat Warning remains in place for most of western Washington, including Whatcom County, through Monday evening due to expected high temperatures mostly in the 90s to around 100° today, June 26th, and in the 90s to 110° tomorrow and Monday.

Yesterday's high temperatures reached the 80s and 90s around Whatcom County, about 10 degrees less than is expected over the next few days, with the hottest temperatures expected Sunday and Monday.

While eastern Washington is accustomed to experiencing high temperatures in this range, western Washington is not, and most residences lack air-conditioning that is commonplace in eastern Washington. As a result, special care is being advised by local and state health agencies. The Excessive Heat Warning notes, "Unprecedented heat with record high temperatures will significantly increase the potential for heat-related illnesses, particularly for those working or participating in activities outdoors and for the elderly and those without air-conditioning. NWS provided the following summary of the situation during a briefing this morning. A long-duration, unprecedented heat wave will impact the Pacific Northwest this weekend into early next week.

Little to no relief from the heat overnight. There will be a high to very high risk of heat-related impacts/illness for much of the population, especially those who are heat sensitive and those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.

Increasing fire danger due to hot, dry conditions and an increase in outdoor activities (camping, grilling, vehicles, etc.)

Whatcom County Emergency Management Deputy Director John Gargett said in an email this morning, "Puget Sound Energy believes their system load capability is looking good and suggest these tips to help save energy."

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. For those with central air or air conditioning, PSE recommends no lower than 75 degrees. That might seem on the warm side, but customers can save up to 5 percent on their electric bill by taking that simple step.
- Use fans to help circulate the air. Remember that ceiling fans cool you, not the room, so when you leave the room, make sure to turn off the fan.
- Make sure to close window blinds and curtains to block direct sunlight. In the evening, open windows for cross ventilation.
- Run appliances – such as dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers – at night.