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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Sunday, October 09 2022

# Biden says Putin's nuclear threat brings risk of 'Armageddon'

NEW YORK/KYIV, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine has brought the world closer to "Armageddon" than at any time since the Cold-War Cuban Missile Crisis, U.S. President Joe Biden said.

With his seven-month invasion unravelling, Putin celebrated his 70th birthday on Friday with fawning praise from some officials but little public fuss. That was a contrast to just a week ago when he staged a huge concert on Red Square to proclaim the annexation of nearly a fifth of Ukrainian land.

In a clear repudiation of Putin's record, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Russia's most prominent human rights group, Memorial, which Moscow shut down over the past year. A Ukrainian human rights group and a jailed campaigner against abuses by the pro-Russian government in Belarus also shared the award.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv's forces were swiftly recapturing more territory, including more than 500 square kilometres (200 square miles) in the south where they burst through a second major front this week.



Russia's failings on the battlefield have brought unusual public recrimination from Kremlin allies and regular reshuffles in the top brass.

Russian news site RBC said on Friday Moscow had sacked the commander of its Eastern Military District. A day earlier, one Russian-installed leader in occupied Ukrainian territory went as far as suggesting Putin's defence minister should have shot himself.

Biden said the prospect of defeat could make Putin desperate enough to use nuclear weapons, the biggest risk since U.S. President John Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev faced off over missiles in Cuba in 1962.

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"We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis," Biden said in New York.

Putin was "not joking when he talks about potential use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons, because his military is, you might say, is significantly underperforming," Biden said.

**PEACE PRIZE**  
 The Nobel Peace Prize for Memorial, the rights group shut down in Russia as illegal "foreign agents" last December, was the most open rebuke of Moscow's record by the prize committee since it honoured Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov in 1975. Sakharov had been

named Memorial's first chairman shortly before his death in 1989.

Memorial shared the award with jailed Belarusian activist Ales Byalyatski and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties. Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen denied the decision was a statement against Putin.

"We always give the prize for something and to something, and not against someone," she told reporters.

The Russian group, now operating in exile, said the award recognised its colleagues who continue to suffer "unspeakable attacks and reprisals" in Russia.

Residential building heavily damaged by Russian missile strike in Zaporizhzhia U.S. President Joe Biden travels to New York and New Jersey

Residential building heavily damaged by Russian missile strike in Zaporizhzhia "It encourages us in our resolve to support our Russian colleagues to continue their work at a new location, despite the forced dissolution of MEMORIAL International in Moscow," read a statement by Memorial board member Anke Giesen sent to Reuters.

Byalyatski's wife, Natallia Pinchuk, told Reuters he may not have heard the news, though she had tried to send him a message in prison. In Geneva, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed a motion to appoint an independent expert on human rights abuse allegations in Russia, accusing Moscow of creating a "climate of fear" through repression and violence.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/07/2022

## OPEC Reduces Oil Production

After OPEC reduced oil production by two million barrels a day, it could mean bigger profits for oil companies, higher gasoline prices and big headaches for the Democrats in the upcoming midterm election.

We are already concerned about rising prices and inflation. Consumers will lose buying power as higher prices erode their income.

When facing the election, the Democrats risk losing control of Congress. Even though President Biden made a trip to Saudi Arabia in July, it had little effect on persuading OPEC to continue to produce more oil.

The White House will consult with the Congress on additional tools for reducing OPEC's control over energy prices.

In the meantime, President Biden will order the release of more national strategic petroleum reserves in coordination with allies around the world.

Today the war is still going on in Ukraine and there are many problems in the Asia Pacific region. Unless we can solve the problems in the near future, the price of oil will not come down again very soon.



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## Editor's Choice



Brazil's former President and presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva stands next to his wife Rosangela da Silva, on the day of Brazil's presidential election, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 2. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli



A priest sprinkles holy water at dogs at a drive-through pet blessing, ahead of World Animal Day, at a mall in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, October 2. REUTERS/Lisa Marie David



Former U.S. President Donald Trump gestures during a rally in Warren, Michigan, October 1. REUTERS/Chery Dieu-Nalio



Supporters evacuate a man hit by tear gas fired by police during a riot after a soccer match between at Kanjuruhan Stadium, Malang, East Java province, Indonesia, October 2. The stampede was among the world's worst sporting disasters, as hundreds of soccer fans tried to flee a stadium riot and the firing of tear gas by police, leading to a crush worsened by several locked exits, leaving at least 131 people dead. Antara Foto/Ari Bowo Sucipto



Tina Ekiro from the Turkana pastoralist community affected by the worsening drought due to failed rain seasons, waters sheep from an open well dug on a dry riverbed in Loyokol in Turkana, Kenya, September 28. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya



A medium woman with her mouth pierced is portrayed during the Jui Tui Shrine procession of the annual vegetarian festival, observed by Taoist devotees from the Thai-Chinese community in the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, in Phuket Town, Thailand, October 2. REUTERS/Jorge Silva

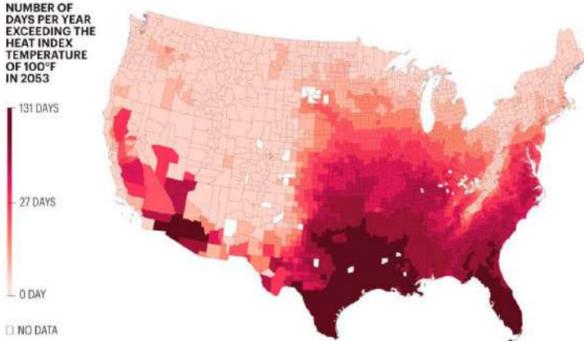
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BUSINESS

'We Need To Be Prepared For The Inevitable, That A Quarter Of The Country Will Soon Fall Inside The Extreme Heat Belt With Temperatures Exceeding 125 Degrees Fahrenheit And The Results Will Be Dire.'

Study: 'Extreme Heat Belt' Will Soon Impact Over 100 Million Americans

AMERICA'S 'EXTREME HEAT BELT'



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Key Points

A heat model released Monday by researchers from the non-profit group First Street Foundation estimates heat risks at the property level across the U.S. Researchers found the local hottest seven days of any particular area are expected to become the hottest 18 days over the next 30 years.

By 2053, 1,023 counties could experience heat index temperatures above 125 degrees.

As record-high temperatures recently swept across several parts of the U.S. this summer, new data on heat risks forecast an 'extreme heat belt' will emerge in large parts of the country by 2053.

The heat model released Monday by researchers from the nonprofit group First Street Foundation estimates heat risks at the property level across the U.S. and how the intensity of hot days will change over the next three decades. The model identified the seven hottest days for any property this year and used that metric to determine how many of those days would occur in 30 years.

Researchers found the local hottest seven days of any particular area are expected to become the hottest 18 days over the next 30 years. Miami-Dade County may experience the most dramatic shift in temperature, where the region's seven hottest days, which include heat index temperatures at 103 Fahrenheit degrees, could increase to 34 days a year at that temperature by 2053.

The states expected to see the largest increase in dangerous temperatures are Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Florida.



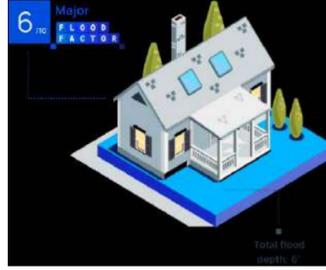
According to the model, an 'extreme heat belt' will encompass an area stretching from Texas and Louisiana to Illinois, Indiana and even parts of Wisconsin. By 2053, 1,023 counties could experience heat index temperatures above 125 degrees, an area home to more than 107 million that covers a quarter of U.S. land area. The model also estimates that just next year, 50 counties are expected to see temperatures beyond that figure.

'Increasing temperatures are broadly discussed as averages, but the focus should be on the extension of the extreme tail events expected in a given year,' Matthew Eby, founder and CEO of First Street Foundation, said in a statement. (see below.)

'We need to be prepared for the inevitable, that a quarter of the country will soon fall inside the Extreme Heat Belt with temperatures exceeding 125 degrees Fahrenheit and the results will be dire,' Eby said.

Along with the report, the nonprofit has made an online tool available for users to search U.S. addresses and see their estimated heat risk. (https://riskfactor.com)

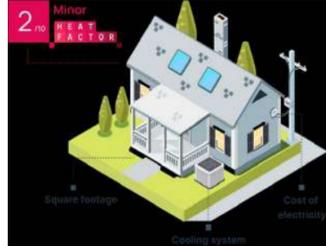
Learn How Risks Are Calculated A property's Flood Factor, Fire Factor, and Heat Factor indicate its comprehensive risk from flooding, wildfire, or extreme heat ranging from 1 (minimal) to 10 (extreme).



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Risk Factors Across The United States As featured in the New York Times 'For too long, we have let people live in communities, and even attracted them to join a community, while keeping them in a state of

ignorance about the risk that they're under.' Source: 'Here is the first-ever map showing wildfire risk to American homes.' National Association of Realtors® 'Flood Factor enables our members to become the source of the resource. It increases transparency. It's really about giving them accurate information so they can make a great decision. It builds trust and confidence with clients. It's a valuable tool to access information.'



From the Wall Street Journal 'The model from the nonprofit First Street Foundation represents the first attempt to make property-level wildfire-risk scores freely available.'

Source: 'Tens of millions of U.S. properties face wildfire risk, new study says.'

Risk Factor Risk Factor is a free tool created by the nonprofit First Street Foundation to make it easy to understand risks from a changing environment. The online tool available for users to search U.S. addresses and see their estimated heat risk. (Go here: https://riskfactor.com/)

Statement From The First Street Foundation

First Street Foundation Finds an emerging 'Extreme Heat Belt' Will Impact Over 107 Million Americans by 2053

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Brooklyn (NY) – (August 15, 2022) - First Street Foundation today released their peer-reviewed extreme heat model along with the implications highlighted in The Sixth National Risk Assessment: Hazardous Heat. The report identifies the impact of increasing temperatures at a property level, and how the frequency, duration, and intensity of extremely hot days will change over the next 30 years from a changing climate. The Foundation's analysis combines high-resolution measurements of land surface temperatures, canopy cover, impervious surfaces, land cover, and proximity to water to calculate the current heat exposure, and then adjusts for future forecasted emissions scenarios. This allows for the determination of the number of days any property would be expected to experience dangerous levels of heat. The model highlights the local impacts of climate change by identifying the seven hottest days expected for any property this year, and using that metric to calculate how many of those days would be experienced in 30 years.

2053 AT LEAST ONE 125 DEGREE DAY



The most severe shift in local temperatures is found in Miami-Dade County where the 7 hottest days, currently at 103°F, will increase to 34 days at that same temperature by 2053. Across the country, on average, the local hottest 7 days are expected to become the hottest 18 days by 2053. In the case of extreme heat, the model finds 50 counties, home to 8.1 million residents, that are expected to experience temperatures above 125°F in 2023, the highest level of the National Weather Services' heat index. By 2053, 1,023 counties are expected to exceed this temperature, an area that is home to 107.6 million Americans and covers a quarter of the US land area. This emerging area, concentrated in a geographic region the Foundation calls the 'Extreme Heat Belt,' stretches from the Northern Texas and Louisiana borders to Illinois, Indiana, and even into Wisconsin.



'Increasing temperatures are broadly discussed as averages, but the focus should be on the extension of the extreme tail events expected in a given year,' said Matthew Eby, founder and CEO of First Street Foundation. 'We need to be prepared for the inevitable, that a quarter of the country will soon fall inside the Extreme Heat Belt with temperatures exceeding 125°F and the results will be dire.' The peer-reviewed First Street Foundation Extreme Heat Model will now be incorporated with Risk Factor for every property in the contiguous United States. Visitors to Risk Factor will find their Heat Factor alongside their Flood Factor and Fire Factor and can learn the specific risks to their property, today and up to 30 years into the future. ## First Street Foundation First Street Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) research and technology group working to define America's growing climate risk. (Courtesyhttps://thehill.com/)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Triple-Digit Heat Sets New Records In 2022 For Texas, California And The Southwest

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The Texas power grid will likely hit all-time energy demands in the course of the next several days as temperatures rise across the state. (Photo/chuchart duangdaw/Getty Images)

Scores of high-temperature records were established Friday from Texas to California's Central Valley as a relentless heat wave continued to build. The heat is poised to expand into the Midwest and Southeast over the coming days. On Friday, triple-digit highs set records in major population centers across the Southwest, including Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Albuquerque, Las Vegas and Phoenix. The National Weather Service in Phoenix described the heat as 'extreme and deadly.'

Many of these areas are forecast to be equally hot on Saturday, as the heat begins to expand eastward. Nearly 60 million Americans are under heat advisories or excessive heat warnings. A heat advisory covers almost the entirety of the states of Texas and Oklahoma and even extends into northwest Louisiana and parts of western Arkansas. Heat advisories and excessive heat warnings also cover parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California. By Sunday, the core of the heat is forecast to shift from California and the Southwest toward the Southern Plains. By Monday, it will ooze into the Central Plains and Midwest before reaching the Ohio Valley and Southeast on Tuesday and Wednesday.

What has been a dry heat in the Southwest will evolve into a more sultry nature east of the Rockies, as moist air is drawn north from the Gulf of Mexico. This will increase the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Early next week, cities from St. Louis to Charlotte will endure punishing heat with highs from 95 to 100 that will feel like 100 to 110 when factoring in oppressive humidity.

Death Valley - home to highest temperatures

ever observed worldwide - soared to a simmering 123 degrees Friday. That mark set a June 10 record and was the fourth earliest the mercury has climbed that high on record in the United States, according to Maximiliano Herrera, a climatologist who tracks world weather extremes.



In addition to all of these record highs, numerous locations in the region have set records for warm overnight lows. In Phoenix, it was still 100 degrees at midnight Saturday.

'With heat waves, the overnight temperatures are the most dangerous, as your body relies on cooler temperatures while its sleeping to recover,' wrote the National Weather Service office in Las Vegas in a forecast discussion. 'Without this cooling, your body is less equipped to handle the scorching daytime heat, leading to increased incidences of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.'

The worst of the heat on Saturday will concentrate from Texas to the Desert Southwest.

'The heat the past few days has already proven to be a major societal impact, and possibly even deadly, and it is not done yet,' the Weather Service office in Phoenix wrote.

Phoenix is forecast to hit 114, a record for the date; Las Vegas is predicted to reach 110, also a record. Death Valley may match Friday's high of 123, setting a record for a second straight day. While it will be more of a dry heat in interior parts of Texas, humidity will increase nearer the Gulf Coast, making the heat even more dangerous.

'Heat safety will be critical this weekend - remaining hydrated, applying sunscreen, checking in on elderly or ill family and friends, and avoiding strenuous activity during the hottest parts of the day can all combat preventable heat-related illnesses,' wrote the Weather Service office in Houston.

It will also remain hot in California's Central Valley, but several degrees cooler than Friday. Sacramento hit 104 on Friday; Saturday's forecast high is 101. By Sunday, it's a much more tolerable 85. While the heat gradually eases over

California and the Southwest on Sunday and beyond, it will persist in Texas and the Southern Plains and expand eastward: Sunday's hottest weather will focus from Texas to Kansas with widespread triple-digit highs. Phoenix could top 110 degrees one more day, while eastern New Mexico and eastern Colorado will also swelter. Highs well into the 90s will expand across the Midwest, including St. Louis and Kansas City, and the Southeast.



Monday's hottest weather will focus in the Plains and Midwest. Highs over 100 will expand from Texas to Kansas, while highs from at least 95 to 100 sprawl over much of the Midwest and Southeast. St. Louis could hit 100 with upper 90s in Kansas City, Springfield, Ill., Charlotte, and Columbia, S.C. Factoring in the humidity, it will feel 5 to 10 degrees hotter. Tuesday's hottest weather will focus from the Midwest to the Ohio Valley and Southeast with widespread mid-to-upper 90s - including Minneapolis, Des Moines, Chicago, St. Louis, Nashville, Cincinnati, Roanoke and Raleigh. Again, oppressive humidity levels will make it feel up to 10 degrees hotter. Wednesday's hottest weather will focus from the Midwest to the Ohio Valley, even expanding into the Great Lakes. Highs in the mid-to-upper 90s could reach Detroit, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Cleveland. While some relief from the heat will arrive in parts of the Midwest and Ohio Valley later in the week, the responsible zone of high pressure or heat dome will return to the Southern and Central United States into the weekend. In other words, there is no end in sight to anomalously high temperatures occupying considerable parts of the country.

Human-caused climate change is supercharging heat waves like this one, making them more intense and long-lived. (Courtesy chron.com)

Related

Power Demand Breaks Record During June Heat Wave In Texas The state's grid operator was able to maintain supply without needing to call for any conservation



A lifeguard watches people at a public pool

in Austin in summer 2020. (Photo/Allie Goulding/The Texas Tribune)

A heat wave caused electricity use in Texas to reach an all-time high on Sunday, but the state's power grid appeared to hold up without major disruption. Power demand surpassed 75 megawatts at around 5:15 p.m., surpassing the previous record of 74.8 megawatts in August 2019. Still, the state's capacity remained well above that, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The massive demand was unusual for two reasons. First, it came in June, which tends to be slightly less hot than the state's warmest late-summer months. It also came on the weekend, when electricity demand tends to be slightly lower as many office buildings are empty.

But the weekend has been extremely hot even by Texas standards, with much of the state over 100 degrees. On Sunday afternoon, the National Weather Service had issued a heat advisory for all but eight of the state's 254 counties. Many counties were under an excessive heat warning, which means the heat index was expected to be over 105 degrees for at least two hours. Texans have anxiously watched the state's ability to ensure power supply ever since a winter storm incited massive and prolonged blackouts in the state caused more than 200 deaths.

In May, ERCOT asked Texans to conserve power in May during a heat wave that coincided with some power plant outages. No such conservation request has been necessary this weekend. (Courtesy chron.com)

Related

June 1 Marked The Official Start Of The Atlantic Hurricane Season, Which Is Predicted To Be Yet Another Overactive One How Bad Will The 2022 Hurricane Season Be? Intense, Experts Say



This NOAA satellite image shows Hurricane Laura moving northwestern in the Gulf of Mexico towards Louisiana on Aug. 26, 2020. (Photo / RAMMB/NOAA/NESDIS/AFP via Getty Images)

With a warm and humid start to June, the 2022 hurricane season is now in full swing. While we can't know how many storms will spin up from the tropics this year, experts from several institutions are all in agreement: This season will likely produce an above-average number of hurricanes, and those that do form will probably be more intense. If their predictions hold, this will

mark the seventh overactive Atlantic hurricane season in a row.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the National Hurricane Center (NHC), predicts between 14 and 21 named systems this year, both tropical storms and hurricanes. Forecasters predict six to 10 of those named storms will likely be hurricanes, including three to six major hurricanes with sustained winds of 111 mph or higher. AccuWeather, a private weather forecasting company, predicts between 16 and 20 named storms, six to eight hurricanes and three to five major hurricanes. And forecasters inside a hurricane prediction lab at Colorado State University believe there will be 19 storms, nine hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

Each meteorological institution pointed to a heavy period of La Niña in the Pacific Ocean, characterized by cooler waters there, as one of many reasons this season could be more intense. The weather phenomenon decreases winds in the Atlantic, which makes atmospheric conditions more conducive to a storm's formation. Warmer-than-average waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico will also allow storms to develop more easily.



June brings the start of the 2022 hurricane season in the Atlantic basin.

'Sea-surface temperatures are above normal over much of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean and even off the East Coast of the United States, especially the southeast coast of the United States,' said Dan Kottlowksi, head of AccuWeather's team of tropical weather forecasters, in a press release detailing their findings. 'These are critical areas for early season development.' Already by Wednesday, the NHC is monitoring two disturbances in the Atlantic Basin. The first is located in the southern Gulf of Mexico near the Yucatán Peninsula, comprised of the remnants from Hurricane Agatha which slammed into Mexico from the Pacific Ocean and left at least 11 people dead. It has an 80 percent chance of development into an organized system, although NHC meteorologists predict it will move out of the Gulf in the coming days and poses no threat to Southeast Texas.

The second disturbance is located east of the West Indies and has a 10 percent chance of development. Forecasters predict it will move further out into the Atlantic and doesn't appear to pose a threat to land. (Courtesy chron.com)