Exposure to extreme heat is already a significant public health problem and the primary cause of weather-related mortality in the U.S. As temperatures continue to increase due to climate change, heat-related illness is expected to worsen.

Climate change currently causes rare heat waves to be 3 to 5°F warmer over most of the United States. By 2050, U.S. heat waves could be an extra 3 to 5°F warmer.

In Maricopa County, Arizona for example, (which includes the city of Phoenix), around 40% of all heat-related deaths in 2021 were people in the homeless community.

Heat stress and workers: lawmakers, workers, labor unions and environmental leaders are calling for action on legislation aimed at speeding up the first federal heat stress standards protecting workers in the workplace. Experts in the Nixon administration first recommended occupational heat standards back in 1972. The nation has only gotten hotter since then.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND
HEALTH IMPACTS:

DR. NEELU TUMMALA
SURGEON, MEDICAL DOCTOR
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
E: @neelutummala

Bio: Special interest in education and advocacy concerning the health effects of climate change and environmental injustice. She is a co-director of the Climate Health Institute at George Washington University and Vice-Chair of Public Relations for Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.

KRISTIE L. EBI
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
E: krisebi@uw.edu

Bio: Expertise in the impacts of and adaptation to climate variability and change, including on extreme events, thermal stress.

JUNE T. SPECTOR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
E: spectj@uw.edu

Bio: Expertise in heat exposure prevention and management, climate-related hazards in working populations

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR CLIMATE SIGNALS PAGE.