

# Climate Change Brings World Record Reliable Temperature to Death Valley

By Don Sutherland

During the past few days, another epic heatwave fried parts of North America. This time, the extreme heat was centered on the western United States, particularly parts of California, Nevada, and Utah. During that time, California's Death Valley recorded the highest reliably measured temperature on record worldwide.

Death Valley has seen an increase in extremely hot days in recent years. At the time this blog was published, Death Valley was near its record of 10 125°F days during an entire year. Select statistics for Death Valley are below.

30-Year Period Ending	Highs 120°F or Above	Highs 125°F or Above	Highs 125°F+ as % of Days 120°F+
1950	14.4 days	0.8 days	5.8%
1960	11.9 days	0.7 days	5.9%
1970	9.9 days	0.2 days	2.3%
1980	11.0 days	0.3 days	3.0%
1990	10.7 days	0.6 days	5.3%
2000	14.0 days	1.4 days	10.3%
2010	18.3 days	2.9 days	15.8%
2020	23.1 days	4.2 days	18.2%

  

Year	Highs 120°F or Above	Highs 125°F or Above	Highs 125°F+ as % of Days 120°F+
2019	20	1	5.0%
2020	33	8	24.2%
<b>2021*</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>42.9%</b>

\*-Through July 11.

Select Additional Records (through July 11):
Highest 1-day temperature: 130°F (130.0°); old record: 130°F (129.9°F) August 16, 2020 <sup>1</sup>
Highest 2-day average maximum temperature: 129.5°F; old record: 128.5°F, June 30-July 1, 2013 <sup>2</sup>
Highest 3-day average maximum temperature: 129.0°F; old record: 128.3°F, July 18-20, 2005 <sup>3</sup>

1. 134°F, July 10, 1913 is unreliable.

2. 131.5°F, July 9-10, 1913 and July 10-11, 1913 is unreliable.

3. 131.0°F, July 10-12, 1913 is unreliable.

