

Extreme Heatwaves Fry Three Continents

By Don Sutherland

Climate change has been leading to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of heatwaves. At present, three concurrent heatwaves are ongoing. On Sunday, Sanbao, China reached 126° setting a new national high temperature record. Temperatures were in the high 90s and low 100s in southern Europe with the heatwave likely to threaten or topple all-time records on Tuesday. The Southwestern U.S. has been in the midst of a severe long-duration heatwave that has seen the mercury set a new all-time mark at Kingman, AZ and tie the all-time record at Reno.

Through Sunday, Phoenix has had 17 consecutive days with 110° or above temperatures. The record of 18 days will very likely be tied today and broken tomorrow. A comparison of Phoenix's three longest heatwaves is below:

Category	1974	1995	2023
Days	18	17	17
Mean High	113.1	113.5	113.2
Mean Low	79.9	86.6	88.6
Average	96.5	100.1	100.9
Highest Maximum	116	121	118
Highest Minimum	89	92	95
Lowest Maximum	110	111	110
Lowest Minimum	74	78	78
Highs 115F+	7	4	5
Lows: 90F+	0	2	7
Means: 100F+	2	13	13

Note: Through July 16, 2023 (2023 heatwave is ongoing)