



New to the National Weather Service in parts of Alaska this year will be **Heat Advisories** ([see Service Change Notice here](#)). Here is some added information about this new product for Southeast Alaska.

- **Heat advisory criteria for all of Southeast: 80°F for any amount of time.**
  - 75 and 85 for parts of Fairbanks
- Excessive Heat Warnings are not part of the changes we are making.
- All time record high temperature in Southeast Alaska (at a standardized location) of **98°F** occurred at the Haines Airport, **July 31, 1976**.
  - Juneau airport: 90°F 7/7/1975
  - Sitka airport: 88°F 7/31/2020
  - Ketchikan: 96°F 6/25/1913
  - Yakutat airport: 88°F 8/15/2004
- **Why Heat advisories in Alaska??**
  - The NWS in our State did not have a locally defined criteria to issue heat advisories before now...meaning we could only have issued a product based on a previous lower 48 standard heat index value, which was too high and even our all time records set in 1976 would not have met the criteria. The lower 48 has gone to locally defined criteria in the last several years, for example, parts of New England have an advisory criteria of a *heat index* of 100 and many other locations require a minimum overnight heat index temperature of 75.
  - Creating a local criteria gave us the opportunity to look at what has happened historically and what would be *unusual* for our population to experience. Those not used to that sort of heat can be more susceptible to temperatures even at the 80°F mark. This includes heat illness/exhaustion, which can be exacerbated in a vehicle.
  - The sun angle in Alaska plays a role in 80°F feeling hotter than if you experienced that in Hawaii or elsewhere down south. Closer to the equator, the sun is beating down directly over your head and a wide brim hat can really help. Meanwhile, at this latitude the sun angle is hitting the body more broadly.
  - Majority of our residents do not have air conditioning.
  - Homes are built to hold the heat IN.
  - “Even on mild days in the 70s, studies have shown that the temperature inside a parked vehicle can rapidly rise to a dangerous level for children, pets and even adults.
- **What should people do if a heat advisory is issued?**
  - Drink plenty of fluids and check up on elderly and vulnerable relatives and neighbors.
  - Young children and pets should never be left unattended in vehicles under any circumstances as vehicle interiors can reach extreme temperatures in as little as 10 minutes. (see safety graphic below)
  - Take extra precautions when working in the sun. Wear sunscreen and lightweight, loose fitting clothing. Try to limit strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Take action when you see symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
  - Close curtains during the daytime to reduce sun insulation into the home and open



# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

- windows at night to allow the home to cool off. Utilize fans or community buildings with air conditioning.
- Locations next to the ocean or glaciers will be cooler with a stronger breeze in the afternoon.

More heat safety information is available here: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>

## Heat Related Deaths **ARE** Preventable

### LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK

The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Inside 99°  | Time Elapsed: 10 Minutes |
| Inside 109° | Time Elapsed: 20 Minutes |
| Inside 114° | Time Elapsed: 30 Minutes |
| Inside 123° | Time Elapsed: 60 Minutes |

[weather.gov/heat](https://www.weather.gov/heat) [nhtsa.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov)