

#SummerReady Extreme Heat Summit Transcript

In coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the August 28, 2023 summit was part of FEMA's #SummerReady campaign, focusing on actions state, local, tribal, territorial leaders can take to reduce the effects of extreme temperatures.

>> FEMA REGION 5 ADMINISTRATOR TOM SIVAK:

Thank you all for joining us today for the Extreme Heat Summit.

As you are coming online, this webinar will include a roundtable discussion with question and answer.

Throughout the session, we invite you to submit questions for our speakers via the question-and-answer functionality via the toolbar at the bottom of your screen.

Today's session is being recorded for our stakeholders and partners who are not able to attend.

With that we're going to get started.

My name is Tom Sivak, and I'm the Region 5 Administrator for FEMA.

As we focus on this important subject of extreme heat, we're going to have speakers, we're honored to be joined by Secretary Mayorkas.

And also, Victoria Salinas.

As I said my name is Tom Sivak, we are so excited to be here today with you. Thank you for taking time out of your day.

One of the things we're going to do is open today by hearing from Secretary Mayorkas.

With that, Secretary, we are so honored to have you here today.

We're going to turn it over to you for opening comments, sir.

>> DHS SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS:

Thank you for having me today and for your work in this critically important area.



FEMA

When it's 110 degrees outside, your body must work overtime to cool itself off.

After just seconds outside, your heart automatically begins to race.

A few minutes in that heat can cause headaches, nausea, and vomiting.

Every additional minute increases the likelihood that your organs overheat to the point of failure leading to hallucinations, seizures, blood poisoning, and even death.

Over the last two weeks, that was the daily reality people faced in parts of Texas and Florida.

But also, in parts of Wisconsin and South Dakota. It was the threat 1.6 million residents of Phoenix, Arizona, lived under for a record setting 31 straight days last month causing up to 350 deaths and nearly 3,000 hospitalizations.

Disproportionately, children, older adults, and homeless people. 110 degrees is not a nice day at the beach.

Extreme heat is no longer a looming threat in a climate change-driven future. It is an urgent, deadly, and dangerous problem in our country today.

One in three Americans are currently living under a heat alert, and heat is already the number one weather-related cause of death in the United States.

About 700 Americans are killed by extreme heat every year.

It is a crisis that is only going to grow worse and impact more communities; north, south, east, and west, in the years ahead.

It is not only people who are in danger from extreme heat, so is our critical infrastructure.

Sustained extreme heat can cripple our roadways, runways, railways, electrical grids, and other critical infrastructure, severely curtailing our ability to surge resources to communities in need and compounding the human cost.

Keeping Americans safe is the highest priority of the entire Biden Harris Administration and it is our founding mission here at the Department of Homeland Security.

Mitigating the impacts of extreme heat will require all of us, at every level of government, to work together closely and invest now in preparedness and resilience.

That is why we have convened this summit.

We're here to help streamline communication and coordination, to help cut through red tape and to get resources out to every community that needs them.

These resources range from the first of its kind resource guide we unveiled last week which provides a best practices roadmap for communities to develop extreme heat risk assessment and response plans.

Two, our building infrastructure and communities or brick grants, we help fund backup generators, cooling centers, and more.

Earlier today in fact, our administration, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the project selections for \$1.8 billion in new [BRIC](#) grant funding, alongside nearly \$650 million in additional extreme weather heat mitigation assistance funding.

These awards filled on the nearly \$200 million in resilience funding announced earlier this summer and include projects in 23 states receiving their first [BRIC](#) or flood mitigation assistance funding award.

These projects are truly a lifeline for communities across the country.

My colleagues will detail them and future funding opportunities over the next 90 minutes.

Just as important though, this summit is an opportunity for each of us to connect with and learn from one another.

What are the impacts of extreme heat that you are already seeing in your communities?

What have you already done to help mitigate the impact of extreme heat?

How can other government leaders take your efforts and adapt them to fit the unique needs of their own communities?

Governor Edwards, for example, from whom you'll be hearing shortly, will be speaking about Louisiana's efforts.

How are those efforts applicable to Wisconsin for example?

How are the lessons we are already learning from the tragic wildfires in Maui relevant to dry, arid climates in Texas?

What steps are hospitals, power grids, schools, community centers, and constituents already taking to prepare for next summer's heat?

I am grateful that Governor Edwards and other leaders are devoting their time and expertise today.

Over just the last few months, we have seen the DHS workforce, FEMA, Administrator Criswell, and the entire administration deliver for communities in their moments of need in Hawaii, California, Kentucky, New York, Vermont, Florida, and too many more.

We're going to continue to be there wherever and whenever communities are threatened by extreme weather, including over the coming days as tropical storm Idalia bears down on Florida. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

When it comes to extreme heat, that worth is measured in lives. Thank you, thanks to all of you for being here today.

I'm grateful for your partnership and your commitment to ensuring the health, safety, strength, and resilience of our country.

It's now my pleasure to introduce our wonderful, extraordinary Administrator of FEMA, Deanne Criswell.

>> FEMA ADMINISTRATOR DEANNE CRISWELL:

Secretary, thank you so much for those remarks and just thank you for your leadership.

Making this important topic, this event today such a priority for the Department.

I think as everybody here has heard really described very well by Secretary Mayorkas, that there is no doubt that extreme heat events have become a greater problem across our nation.

We've seen successive days of record high temperatures in many of our states and they have strained infrastructure and it has put so many people at risk for heat-related illnesses and deaths.

But FEMA has been leaning forward, to help give communities the information and the tools that they need to know about extreme heat.

And we've been doing this through our #SummerReady initiative.

This campaign promotes preparedness and awareness around extreme heat for the public, for the media, for emergency managers, as well as our state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders.

It also highlights the valuable resources that we have available to help build resilience to extreme heat events for all our communities.

Ahead of the #SummerReady official kick off, our FEMA Region 5 office held and hosted our first annual heat summit.

This was held in Chicago, and all our ten regions, as well as many of our federal partner agencies, came together at our regional office to discuss how we as a Federal Government can reduce the potential impacts of extreme heat beforehand.

In fact, you're going to hear more, and you've already heard from our moderator for today's summit, our very own FEMA Region 5 Administrator Tom Sivak.

He and his team did such a remarkable job at leading this event.

It was such a successful event and it provided just the most amazing opportunity for us to come together, have conversation about what we can do to help communities help their citizens against the threats and the challenges faced by extreme heat.

And I think as many of you know already, August is Disaster Resilience Month.

And we are closing out this month, and I want to be able to tell you about some of the things that we have done throughout the month about all the different resources that are available to them to help them combat extreme heat.

Some of which we discussed, and we realized during our own internal summit that we held.

First, we hosted a series of webinars where we focused on the influence of extreme heat on people, on infrastructure, what types of mitigation grants are available, and how you can use our direct technical assistance to help apply for the mitigation funding that's available.

We offer guidance on how to apply for the hands on direct technical assistance for communities who maybe lack personnel or maybe lack the resources.

And even more importantly, this type of assistance, this direct type of assistance has yielded critical funding for projects in some of our most under resourced communities to help mitigate climate extremes.

I'm happy to report that these webinars were very well attended.

If any of you on this line were not able to listen in, you can access it still.

You can access our previous webinars by going to [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) and searching “webinar extreme heat.”

A lot of really great information out there if you want to further your knowledge and understanding about some of the resources that are available.

That's not the only place.

I also urge you to go to [Heat.gov](https://www.heat.gov), and you can get the latest information about the tools and funding that are currently available from all our federal agencies in order to support this effort.

As Secretary Mayorkas mentioned earlier, we also published an important document, [Guidance on Extreme Temperatures for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Leaders](#).

That's going to be the focal point of this event today.

Today's event, the summer ready extreme heat summit is a culmination of all our efforts throughout the summer to help raise understanding and help spur action.

So, in closing, I want to emphasize that extreme heat events pose a significant risk to human health, to our energy grid, to the supply chains, to water resources, transportation, and other basic infrastructure needs.

These types of disruptions can upend our lives in devastating ways.

But we can prepare by sharing our success story today and looking for ways to collaborate.

We can and we must develop solid strategies for all our community, especially our most vulnerable ones.

Today's summit is a pivotal component of how we can move forward, about how we can work together to help share information, to share tools, to share resources.

So, I want to thank our panelists for giving your time today.

Those panelists who represent our state, our local, territorial, and tribal voices; your time today is going to be very valuable, and I am so excited to hear from all of you.

Next, it is my pleasure to welcome Victoria Salinas, one of our great leaders within the Resilience arm of FEMA.

She's our Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Administrator for Resilience.

Victoria is going to take some time to walk you through our extreme heat guidance document we mentioned and that's going to be followed by a roundtable discussion.

Thank you all again for attending today and for being part of our efforts.

Victoria, I'll turn it over to you.

>> SENIOR OFFICIAL PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEMA RESILIENCE VICTORIA SALINAS:

Thank you so much.

We are thrilled to have so many distinguished leaders today on the panel to really discuss the guidance on [Extreme Temperatures Guidance for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Leaders](#).

We have Governor Edwards from Louisiana, Dr. Mike Williams a former chief, Nevada Senator, and Commissioner Shea from Travis County, Texas.

We are thrilled to have you joining us today.

I'm often asked how FEMA defines resilience.

In short, resilience is the ability of people, places, and systems to anticipate hazards, adapt to changing conditions, reduce risk, and also withstand the impacts.

This requires reducing vulnerability in communities to both the sudden shocks and the chronic stresses so that everybody can thrive.

Extreme temperatures have become so common that almost every one of you on this call probably has a personal story or experience coping.

I'm an Austinite, so as Commissioner Shea will probably share, this month has been marked by triple digits almost every single day, reaching 110 degrees much like Arizona, which is hot even for Texans.

Friday night, after my kids were asleep, I was catching up with my mom and her partner who still live in Austin.

They were asking me much like many of your residents probably, what can we do, how can we prepare?

What else is there for us to do?

There are many actions households and individuals can take.

Many are listed on the [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) website.

Some of them my mom and her partner are taking.

Because of the extreme cold this winter, they had roof damage, they took the opportunity to invest in better insulation.

Now when it's 81 degrees outside, they turn on their central AC.

But they've figured out how to make their building more comfortable without turning on the AC.

Friends who have purchased a window unit to try and cool the one main room they live in and are using the libraries and cooling places that Austin has made available to its residents.

They've also found coping mechanisms.

They go to Barton Springs, which many of you know is a constantly cool swimming hole in Austin.

And they found there's been an uptick in number of air-conditioned places to recreate.

Those are all coping mechanisms you can do when you have access to do so.

They're under a stage two drought alert right now, and they're worried looking at what happened in Maui, they're worried that may lead to wildfires in their own area – because they're near beautiful habitats, but they're still in an urban area.

All of these are questions that many residents, including my parents, are asking themselves as they look at extreme temperatures and ask, what more can we do?

And of course, being here at FEMA, had lots of responses for them including joining our [Community Emergency Response Teams \(CERT\)](#) that many jurisdictions have, including Austin.

But at the end of the day, all levels of government have a responsibility and ability to accelerate community resilience at a scale that my mom won't be able to do alone.

That's why today's conversation, and the role each of you play in the communities you serve, is so vital.

And today, you're going to be hearing from incredible leaders doing so much.

You all have some of the busiest jobs and hardest jobs on the planet.

And that is why this guidance is probably one of the shortest pieces of federal guidance you will ever see.

It is about four pages long, written for executives who are busy doing the business of community development.

There are four key principles in the new [Extreme Temperatures guidance](#).

First, make an extreme temperatures response plan.

Second is to conduct a hazard and threat risk assessment.

Third is to plan for and adapt to future conditions.

And fourth is to adopt and enforce building codes that are resistant to natural hazards.

Many jurisdictions are taking action already, from assigning heat officers, to integrating heat in your response and resilience plans, to standing up outdoor misting stations and cooling centers... your efforts are providing tangible examples of the ways we can act today and adapt for years to come.

Thanks to you, we've had an opportunity to hear many of these success stories through the #SummerReady campaign.

But we know that the learning is still at its very beginning.

FEMA, as well as other federal agencies, are working very closely with the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) to stand up a national heat strategy and support [Heat.gov](#), which Administrator Criswell referred to.

Through FEMA's [National Exercise Program](#), our revolving loan program [Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation](#), [BRIC](#), and the [Emergency Management Performance Grant \(EMPG\)](#), [Public Assistance program](#), and other programs, we're able to support federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to partner and enhance the response capability, capacity, and training.

Our [Mitigating the Risk of Extreme Temperatures with Hazard Mitigation Funds Fact Sheet](#) also shares many ways you can use hazard mitigation assistance grant programs to financially assist with both planning and implementing hazard mitigation measures that build the climate resilience to withstand the extreme temperatures.

These funds can be used to plan for and mitigate risks posed by both natural hazards, extreme heat and extreme cold.

We have the actions, tools, and funding available to build a climate resilient nation.

While the summer season is coming to an end and we are preparing for the next winter season during the next few months, let's capitalize on all these resources to strengthen our resilience today and adapt to the reality of a changing climate.

I'm thrilled to have such a distinguished group of leaders to share their experiences and without further ado, so we can get to our panel session, over to you, Tom.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you so much, Victoria. How great of a way to start this conversation today.

And we are so thankful to have Secretary Mayorkas talk about our [Extreme Temperatures Guidance](#) and Administrator Criswell talk about all of the opportunities we have as it relates to the extreme heat that we face today especially in this climate crisis.

And it is with great honor and pleasure that we move into the next part of our conversation, which is going to be with our panelists. We are so fortunate today to be joined by Governor Edwards, from Louisiana.

Governor Edwards has been a champion as it relates to extreme heat. And we know you are in the middle of a couple of other things happening in Louisiana today and we want to be respectful of your time. We'll also then move into the rest of our panelists as well.

Governor Edwards was sworn into his second term as 56th Governor of Louisiana in January of 2020.

Governor Edwards has taken numerous steps during his administration to address climate change and expand the clean energy sector alongside Louisiana's long history of traditional climate initiatives.

He established a climate initiatives task force, the state's first effort to develop economy-wide policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The task force delivered a plan to get Louisiana to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. And under Governor Edwards' leadership, Louisiana is emerging as a global leader in energy transition.

Seeing the direct impacts of climate and extreme heat at the forefront already this year, Louisiana has already exceeded the average number of annual heat-related emergency room visits.

The governor took action declaring a state of emergency due to multiple impacts of extreme heat affecting the state.

Governor Edwards, thank you so much for joining and taking time out of your schedule as you're also responding to other events in Louisiana.

Could you please share with us what you're doing to continue to focus on this important topic?

>> GOVERNOR EDWARDS:

Thank you, Tom.

And it is my pleasure to be with all of you this afternoon.

I think this topic is very timely and important. It's great to hear from Secretary Mayorkas, also Administrator Criswell and Victoria.

I want to thank FEMA real quick, we got a notice of \$500 million in funding for mitigation assistance and BRIC assistance as well.

I testified a few weeks ago at the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on the impact of climate change on infrastructure.

Today, we're really focused on the impact on people, which is obviously incredibly important.

I will have to hop off whenever I finish, because we are unfortunately responding to a record number of wildfires across Louisiana that have developed precisely because of the extreme heat that we're experiencing.

So, I said this is a very timely summit.

Simply put, nobody alive in Louisiana has ever seen drought conditions this severe. It's never been this hot for this long.

It has never been this dry simultaneously.

And we actually have drought conditions across the entire state, and much of which is D4, the most severe category of drought.

As a result, we've had a series of wildfires that have broken out across the State of Louisiana.

Now I'm coming to my second term as governor, to the end of the second term. So, I've been governor for almost eight years.

And even before that, I mean Louisiana has seen it all, or we thought we had. Hurricanes, floods, tornados. But we have never seen wildfires like these before.

And as a result, we don't have the expertise, the experience.

We don't have the training we need to have. We don't have some of the equipment we would like to have to be able to respond.

Now we're very thankful for federal partners, we're thankful for people that come from out of state who have more experience.

But obviously this is something we're going to have to address for ourselves.

You know, we typically have problems related to too much water. Having problems caused by too little, is very challenging and very different.

I'll put it to you this way, in the last 25 years, Louisiana has had one wildfire declaration. We've had three in the last four days.

And I do want to thank FEMA because they issued the [Fire Management Assistance Grants](#) that we have in place here in Louisiana now.

You may have heard me say this before, Louisiana is ground zero in the United States of America for climate change.

We've lost 2,000 square miles of coast since 1930 and of course sea level rise is only accelerating because of climate change and global warming. We had a 500-year flood in 2016, the first year I was governor. We had the two strongest hurricanes to ever hit Louisiana, Hurricane Laura in 2020, and Hurricane Ida in 2021.

These hurricanes were marked with rapid intensification, and that happens obviously very near to our coast.

So, they're literally on your doorstep before they organize and strengthen, and you don't get the full planning time that we have historically had in order to implement all of your plans prior to landfall.

In fact, you're seeing this happen right now with the hurricane that's headed to Florida. And that seems to be the norm now rather than the exception.

And it certainly has influenced how we prepare for hurricanes.

But never in my wildest dreams, quite frankly, did I expect to be combating hundreds of wildfires within a short period of time here in Louisiana.

For us, that was always something that California, Texas, New Mexico, other states were going to have to deal with. But that is our reality right now.

We're approaching 500 different wildfires in the month of August. We're approaching 60,000 acres that have burned.

Even though these are happening primarily in Southwest Louisiana, which is very rural, you can't burn that many acres and not burn structures including homes.

So, we've got dozens of homes, barns, and other structures, we have in fact populated centers that are threatened, and numerous evacuations have been in place in so forth. The Tiger Island fire itself has consumed about 38,000 acres in Beauregard Parish.

We haven't lost any lives because of a lot of good and hard work being done. Although sadly, yesterday we lost an 84-year-old lady in a different part of the state in Southeast Louisiana because of a grass fire on her property.

And I say that to demonstrate that this is a statewide situation that we're dealing with. And it's also why I'm going to be getting off the call so that I can get updates and continue to make resource allocation decisions with respect to the wildfires.

But I do want to take just a moment and thank FEMA for their assistance, we've heard from the White House.

I've talked to the Secretary of the USDA; his folks have been tremendous. The Forest Service has the expertise and assets that we lack. And they're on the ground in a very robust way.

We've had assistance from Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, you name it.

We don't really have any real promise of relief in sight. You may have seen where a cold front came through last night and today.

I guess instead of 103 degrees, it will be 95 degrees, which is still above normal for this time of year.

And unfortunately, the air coming in behind the front is drier than the air that it replaced. And we don't have any rain in the forecast for the next couple of weeks. So, this discussion is timely, like Louisiana.

Like other states, we in Louisiana are experiencing unprecedented temperatures – here in Baton Rouge, 29 days above 100 degrees. That's not happened before.

Those temperatures affect you in ways you can't contemplate in advance.

For example, we have drought far north. I assume in Tom's region up in Illinois and Ohio and so forth, there's not enough rain coming down the Mississippi River, so we have saltwater intrusion that is compromising our municipal water systems in the lower part of our state.

The [U.S. Army] Corps of Engineers is building sills to deal with that. In the meantime, we're delivering bottled waters to families so they can survive. It's affecting agriculture, you name it.

Very sadly, the heat wave in our state has resulted in at least 26 fatalities this year.

So, in addition, there's a financial cost.

Local governments are regularly incurring costs to operate cooling centers, to repair damaged infrastructure, to rent generators, to repair asphalt and concrete that buckles because of the heat, and they compromise roofs and bridges and so forth. Replaces HVAC systems.

These kinds of events need to happen so we can share best practices learned from one another and better deal with these situations going forward.

So, we're going to have to do a better job of acquainting ourselves with the demands of extreme heat and what it is we need to do to protect our people.

So, I thank all of you for your contributions and I wish you nothing but the best.

If we can do anything to help in Louisiana, let us know. And thank you for all of the help you've provided us over the years.

>> RA SIVAK:

Governor Edwards, thank you so much.

You talked about the exacerbated effects of extreme heat; you talked about the infrastructure and how it's affecting your state.

We know you have to get back right now. What's one thing those listening on this line right now could do right now that could really focus on this extreme topic if you have just a couple more seconds to share with us?

>> GOVERNOR EDWARDS:

What we're doing here in Louisiana and what I encourage others to do is learn from this experience and have after action reviews so we can improve next time.

I suspect next time isn't going to be 50 years from now, ten years from now. It may be next summer.

Making sure that you take this opportunity to learn and then figure out which resources you would have liked to have, and you didn't have and use the time between now and then to invest in those resources.

Who is it that has the relevant body of experience and expertise that you can bring in and learn from and then create training exercises?

We do that all of the time for tornadoes and floods and hurricanes. We're going to have to start doing it in Louisiana for extreme heat and drought and that has just not been the norm here.

I encourage people to understand that I believe there is a new normal.

And by the way, I would love to be wrong. I would love for this never to happen again. I think it would be foolish to assume that that would be the case.

>> RA SIVAK:

Governor Edwards, thank you so much for your time.

Talking about the investment, talking about after action reports, making sure you create trainings that are associated with these extreme heat events.

We are so thankful for your time.

All of us are with you as you respond to these events and it's great to see the nation come and support you as well especially. Thank you so much for your time, Governor Edwards, today.

>> GOVERNOR EDWARDS:

Thank you, Tom.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you all very much.

We're going to move to the next part which is bringing in all of our panelists.

Thank you, Governor, for setting the stage.

We're going to bring Dr. Williams, former Chief from the Akiak Native Community.

We're going to have Senator Flores, and also, Commissioner Shea.

First, for Dr. Michael Williams, Sr. from the Village of Akiak, Alaska, and part of the Akiak Native community.

He's serving in his 16th year of National Congress of American Indians. Dr. Williams is also the former chief of the Akiak Native Community and currently serving as Chief Judge of the Tribe.

The honorable Edgar Flores is a member of the Nevada State Senate.

He assumed office in November of 2022.

Senator Flores sponsored state bill 427 that proposed baseline rules for businesses whose workers are affected by extreme heat conditions and poor outdoor quality. The bill among others sought 105 degrees Fahrenheit as a minimum baseline for when employers must provide potable drinking water, access to shade, and hydration breaks.

Employers would also be required to have systems that monitor and respond to heat illness.

Commissioner Shea is a former award-winning reporter at NPR stations, who has proved her grit by fighting climate change since 1988 in Texas.

Since being elected to the Travis County Commissioners Court in 2014, her work to reverse climate change and better prepare residents for climate impacts has won three national association of counties achievement awards. One for creating a neighborhood wildfire drill.

The second for dramatically improving the reach of emergency warning sirens, and the third for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions through ambitious remote work policy at the county.

We are so gratefully honored to have all three of you with us today.

I'm going to start off with you, Dr. Williams and just ask you if you could just share your story about what's happening in the Akiak Native Community up in Alaska and how extreme heat is impacting your communities.

Dr. Williams, good to see you.

>> DR. WILLIAMS:

Good to be here and thank you for the invitation.

And my best to the honorable Secretary Mayorkas and the Administrators from FEMA.

I really appreciate this time to share our stories. And of course, Alaska is ground zero on climate change impact.

I'm living in a small community right now. Our population is 400. And there are over 200 communities throughout Alaska, majority of them have no roads and very little infrastructure other than in our communities.

I've been serving as a tribal leader for over 40 years, and the most notable one was my testimony to House Appropriations Committee on the impacts some 20 years ago and learning the impacts of climate change in the future.

And it was something that I learned in the country that it's going to be impacting adversely and hurt the communities throughout the nation and the world.

But I also am serving as interim president, which we have international meetings of Indigenous people throughout the coastal areas throughout our nation here, East Coast, Midwest, the Southwest, Southeast, and the Northwest communities including Alaska.

So, my observation in 60 years, from normal weather that we've experienced with ice and snow, adequate ice and snow in our communities, for example, our rivers were on average about seven feet thick in the winter down in our river.

But in recent times, it has dwindled down to three feet thick in the winter. So, that caused a lot of accidents going through ice and caused a lot of death and also a lot of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, and it has really affected our erosion in the coastal areas and the rivers of course.

And currently, a community had to be relocated.

And we really appreciate the assistance given to them, and there's other communities up north that are planning to relocate themselves.

And also, currently the coastal erosion is threatening communities as well with my relatives up north. So, I think all of the communities including Akiak, we've been preparing our community with adaptation and mitigation plans.

And the last couple of years, we've had managed retreat, moving our homes from the river away from the river, which is eroding pretty rapidly, and we've moved eight houses so far from going into the river and in doing so we have worked on the infrastructure as well as the electrical systems here that are impacted.

And we're going to be, we're also looking at other structures to move them away from the river to start in the new subdivision which requires to build the roads and to build our electrical systems and also in housing.

Many of the housing structures are really old and we cannot move them, so we end up destroying them and trying to replace them with new housing.

I live in Western Alaska which is most economically depressed area in the United States. And we still live in third world conditions and many of the communities don't have water/sewer infrastructure. Many don't have adequate housing.

And we're trying to make those improvements while we're battling the issues of climate change impacts.

We had a real bad storm last fall in the community of Hooper Bay had to evacuate from those impacts of coastal storms which is occurring more and more.

And of course, we also had a real bad wildfires in the interior of Alaska in the past and it continues to do so today from wildfires.

Many of the communities are impacted by that. So, all of the communities in Alaska, each community must do their planning, and do their mitigation plans and to keep them current.

We appreciate all of the actions by FEMA when we have disasters to give assistance to each community. And I think we need to prepare for the future.

Many of the communities, because of lack of permafrost in the tundra, the villages are sinking, and the structures are sinking into the tundra as well as what we just got through experiencing here in Akiak with river erosion and the need for other communities.

It's not just here, it's a village just 11 miles down from my community. 30 miles down, that village is going through managed retreat issues.

And we're also working on the hydrology of the river trying to figure out how are we going to deal with the issue of the river erosion due to the lack of permafrost anymore.

So, the thawing of ice and more frequent storms and a lot of fires are affecting us. We look forward in going to New Orleans in November for our National Congress of American Indians annual meeting there in Louisiana.

So, all of these issues I'm glad that we are beginning to take concrete actions on these issues and we're all busy dealing with the issue and also our salmon are being affected in the ocean and also our rivers.

We see the hunting and migration patterns of our wild are being affected and of course our drinking water as well is being affected as well.

So, I really appreciate sharing this information. It's not just here in Akiak, it's throughout our Indigenous nations and also the communities throughout the nation and the world. And we have to do something right now and continue to make it a priority.

And I just really appreciate the Biden-Harris Administration in making sure that it is a priority.

And we have to do something now and it's a bit too late now. But before it is really too late, we have to do actions right now.

I really appreciate this and if you have any questions about the impacts in Alaska and elsewhere, let me know.

Thank you.

>> RA SIVAK:

Dr. Williams, thank you so much.

You've talked about hazard mitigation planning and addressing risk and we will be getting further into that soon.

But now we're going to go a little further south to Senator Flores. You've been focused on workers' rights to make sure that everyone can have a reprieve from this extreme heat that's impacting our nation, specifically in Nevada.

Can you share what you're doing to really focus on extreme heat and how we can continue to expand on this as well?

Senator Flores, over to you.

>> SENATOR FLORES:

First of all, I want to say thank you to all of you for joining and allowing me to share this platform with such amazing and talented leaders throughout the country who I have an opportunity to learn from.

And I'm writing down a lot of notes because there's a lot of efforts that we share and unfortunately when we talk about extreme weather, it's not unique to any one state. So, I always start this conversation with why even engage in this conversation.

When I was a little kid, I remember my father would clean pools and provide maintenance to different homes. And like many families, he needed to take me to work.

Unfortunately, he didn't have anywhere to leave me and as a little kid I remember we would go to people's backyards. And the very first thing he would do is find the shade in that backyard. He would make me sit near a wall, under a tree, near a bush, and he would always provide me a really cold water.

Now why am I saying that?

Well, I'm an adult now, and the question that I've always had when I started kind of creating that sense of questioning, who's doing that for my dad?

Right, who is providing that sense of let me sit down and make sure that you the father who's doing that for his son, let me make sure we're doing the same thing for you.

When I became a proud member of the Nevada State Senate, I wanted to address that question. Saying, who's doing the same thing that my father did for me for my father now?

Now my dad doesn't work in that industry anymore, but there's many other parents out there who are.

And I work with the Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition. I sat down with a lot of our labor unions, who are also part of that coalition and we set out to try to address that question.

I'm a small business owner, so one of the first things I wanted to do is if we address and tackle issue that we did it in a responsible way so that we weren't impacting small businesses, because we're not saying we don't want you to work.

What we're saying is we want you to go out there, get the job done in a responsible manner.

They're not mutually exclusive, and once we get rid of that wall or that line and realize that we can achieve both, I think that's where the collaboration starts.

So, one of the first things that we said was we need to ensure that we allow for the plans and the legislation to be very broad because every industry will approach it differently.

So, I really appreciate the four points that were discussed, because creating a plan is just that, creating a plan and leaving it broad enough.

That's what my legislation specifically indicated, create a plan. And whatever that plan looks like it's different if you're a construction company that works primarily in very remote areas of the state versus a mile down the street from the strip.

Making a plan is very different if your folks start working at 4:00 a.m., versus if your folks start working at noon.

Making a plan is different if part of the day you're indoors and part of the day you're outdoors.

The plan is very different if you're a group of three, versus a group of one.

So, all of these things we're taking into consideration.

NOTE:

The following portion of the transcript is missing from the video recording (beginning at 53:26) due to unforeseen technical difficulties during recording. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

And then, the other aspect of this conversation was also reminding the employers that it's not 100 plus degrees every single day.

And that's important because when we start talking about creating some type of baseline requirement, industries will automatically be hesitant and it's reasonable to be hesitant because you're not sure how that's going to impact your business.

But if you're reminding folks this only applies X amount of days throughout the year on average, then all of a sudden you can get buy in from stakeholders.

The other thing is we wanted to ensure that we said for example in the legislation it said hydration periods, but how long of a hydration period and how many is contingent on your type of industry.

I share all of these points because I think nationwide, we have a responsibility both at the federal and state level to implement legislation that will really take care of our workers working in these extreme and excessive weather conditions.

But that we allow ourselves to really create a narrowly tailored piece of legislation that is unique to your state but more importantly that is unique in the way that it invites everybody to the table.

Very quickly and early on in the conversation, I'll share this before I give the microphone back to you. The hesitation made it difficult for people to start collaborating.

And I felt that it was almost an adversarial conversation when it initially started, and I share that so that other folks and other leaders from different states who are considering legislation like this, I invite you to start the conversation on the business side.

Get them to buy in first and you'll realize that most industries are doing best practices anyways.

They're going to mimic a lot of what a lot of these good actors are doing. And that's what's going to really help build that legislation in your state.

We are now one of the compromises that we decided to work on is that this goes to the conversation, create a working group during the interim of our legislative, our legislature meets every two years so we're going to allow for a work session to continue, bring different stakeholders to the table and perhaps take a deep dive.

All of these things are happening right now.

But my point to it all is I think we have a responsibility namely for those who are working in extreme weather conditions, that we collectively as a state and as a country are creating different protections. And it's a way of us saying thank you.

When a state or when a country says we're going to do A, B, C, and D for anybody who's working in these types of environments, it's a way of saying thank you because those humans feel seen and listened to.

With that, I know there will be some other questions, and I'll hand it over back to you.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you so much for focusing especially on listening to our workers, making sure they have protections and making sure that there are plans in place.

You brought up one thing of we have to have different kinds of plans because for some of us it's a 24-hour work cycle and it's different between the morning and the afternoon.

So, thank you so much for sharing and focusing on this important topic.

We're going to turn it over to Commissioner Shea down in Travis County, Texas. You have a proven track record on implementing local policies and initiatives to provide direct benefit to both of your constituents on topics like wildfires and more. How is addressing extreme heat different than other hazards Travis County has experienced?

Thank you so much for being here today.

>> COMMISSIONER SHEA:

Thank you for having me.

I'm thrilled to meet my fellow panelists and appreciate hearing all of what they're doing in the important issues that they're raising in their communities.

And also, great appreciation to the secretary and all of the leaders who've helped convene this summit on extreme heat.

In particular, shout out to Victoria Salinas from Austin. Barton Springs is our saving grace in weather like this. It's incredibly beautiful and rare, mostly cool.

I think it was an interview with Jeff Goodell who wrote a book recently on extreme heat, where he said he thinks people may be less aware about heat because you can't see it.

Texas has had freak ice storms and snow that have destroyed our electric grid and left everyone in the cold and the dark.

You can see that. You can look out your window and see that.

You can't really see heat when you look outside.

And so, it's less visible to people although you obviously can experience it. Walking out of our homes feels like we're walking into a furnace.

And I notice when I do go out, I walk the dog early in the morning and you see everyone walking their dogs then because it's intolerable at any other time of day.

But I think the impact of climate change is finally starting to hit home for people.

When they have this intensely hot and unbearable heat where they can't go out of their homes and they're sort of trapped in their home's day after day, that's the other thing.

We have had a ridiculously long stretch of practically unbearable heat. I think we're at 70 days of triple digits at this point.

And there's huge health impacts.

I asked our public health officer sort of what the stats were. We've had over 1100 emergency room visits from heat-related illnesses. Over 400 EMS response calls because of heat-related illness. We've activated our cooling centers 45 days now, and there have been 74 visits to the emergency room related to drowning.

And that was as of mid-August.

So, the numbers are only getting higher since then. So, there's real human health impacts and even though we can't see the heat, people are definitely suffering from it.

And we've also had work deaths and extreme impacts to people who have to work outside. So that's often hidden from people.

And I really applaud State Senator Flores from Nevada for getting these laws passed.

We've had these laws locally, but the Texas legislature has literally overturned them all. So, they're preventing us from protecting construction workers, lawn care, landscaping workers, anybody who has to work outside.

And there will be tragic consequences, more of them. So extreme heat, extreme drought. Much of Central Texas, which Travis County is Austin basically the City of Austin, Texas is now in exceptional drought which is the worst category.

And it's tied to the extreme heat.

We've got surface reservoirs where there's a whole lot more water evaporating off because it's so hot. So, we're all on extreme restrictions on outdoor watering.

Numerous small communities around the City of Austin are reporting really serious problems with their water supply. And because Texas has this sort of wild west mentality about water called the rule of capture, anybody can stick a big straw into the groundwater under your property and literally suck it all out. It's legal for them to do that.

So, we're going to have many more serious water supply issues in Texas, and I'd say a lack of political will to really deal with them and give us the tools to better manage the water.

We've started opening cooling centers. We're continually getting notices from – again, this is a weird Texas thing. Most of the utility grid in the State of Texas is self-contained within Texas.

You have some on the east and western boundaries that are connected to the national grid. But we've now continually gotten conservation notices from ERCOT, which is the Texas Energy Reliability Council, and they're telling everybody cut back your energy use, please don't use any more energy than you absolutely have to at certain times of day and we're getting those over and over and over again.

And there have been some rolling blackouts in some places around the state. We were at a restaurant the other night, and the power shut down and we looked outside and the power in all of the buildings around us was also down. So, everyone sat there with their flashlights on their phone trying to finish their meal.

So, we're all experiencing impacts in one way or another.

And I will say part of what frustrates me is I feel like we're asking the people who are harmed and most affected by it to bear the responsibility for dealing with this.

And I don't see the kind of national conversation around holding the energy companies accountable, because they are the ones causing it.

So that would be part of my plea, is can we please have this conversation on a national level and look at what our recourse is? Because it's not fair to force the people who are being harmed to either pick up the tab for dealing with whatever they have to do or to bear the burden of the chief responsibility for it.

So those are my main thoughts about it at the moment. But we're doing a number of things.

We've undertaken really aggressive water conservation measures at the county and have reduced our demand for treated drinking water by about 45 million gallons a year because we've switched over to the City of Austin's treated wastewater supply for our air-conditioning systems.

So, we're in this weird sort of feedback loop where the hotter it gets, the more people run their air-conditioning, and much of the air-conditioning in Texas uses evaporative cooling.

So, we're evaporating off more water to cool our buildings and we're also running out of water because of the extreme heat.

But I was really sad and also interested to hear from Dr. Williams about their managed retreat because we are going to have to have more of that and we need to start having adult conversations with people about how to plan for it.

It's not going to get any easier if we don't start discussing it and planning for it.

So those are just some of the thoughts I have about what's going on in Texas. And I'm grateful for Barton Springs in the middle of Austin, which the local residents have fought vigorously to preserve and protect.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you so much, Commissioner Shea, Senator Flores, and Dr. Williams, for having this conversation.

I want to turn the tides a little bit, and this is a little bit of a rapid round here. But I'm interested to hear from each of you and I don't want us to take any time away from it, but I want us to focus because we have a lot of questions coming in and we encourage everyone to ask questions.

We've talked about understanding our communities. We've talked about the impacts of extreme heat across the nation, across your jurisdictions.

But as we look at underrepresented communities, what is one thing critical that you're seeing as it relates to extreme heat and making sure that those needs are met, those resources are available?

And Commissioner Shea, I'm going to go right back to you and send this question to you first and then to Senator Flores and Dr. Williams. Commissioner Shea, over to you.

>> COMMISSIONER SHEA:

The biggest thing we're doing locally is identifying cooling centers.

So, there's a lot of public buildings and we're directing people to those public buildings because they're already air conditioned, we don't have to build a new building or stand up some place that's not currently open.

But we are also identifying resilience hubs where if people need overnight shelter, not all of them will be able to accommodate it, but some will.

So, I'd say resilience hubs and cooling centers are probably the biggest single thing that we're doing.

But we're also on watering restrictions now. And we're urging people to conserve water because our region is in exceptional drought, and I don't think people truly understand how vulnerable we are to the loss of our water supply.

So those are two really important things that are happening now that we're trying to do on the local level.

>> RA SIVAK:

Resiliency hubs, cooling centers, some of the things that were focused on in the DHS guide for extreme temperatures.

So, thank you so much, Commissioner.

Senator Flores, over to you. How is it you're focusing on underrepresented communities and what are you seeing on your side?

>> SENATOR FLORES:

I really appreciate that question. When we were trying to negotiate this piece of legislation, remember a lobbyist saying isn't it a lot of immigrants that work in this arena and space.

And I said yes, and I remember the following response was well immigrants don't really speak up, so what's the point of this legislation.

And I had a very frustrated reaction to that.

But more importantly, there has to be a cultural training because it has true that it is a lot of folk who come to our country very enthusiastically ready to make this country the best place on earth or continue to be the best place on earth.

But it's also they have a right to speak up.

It's making it abundantly clear to say that you have a right to work in an environment that is safe for your health, it is safe for you, it is safe for your family.

And I say that because so many folk come with the expectation when I have conversations with them what can I do, I can't control the heat.

But the answer is not whether or not you can control the heat, but how you yourself learn to read your body, right?

There's a lot of signs that you can put in restrooms if there's a specific site or port-a-potty, pay attention to these four signs and that can tell you if you're dehydrated.

Number two, speak up. There's this sense of I'm not allowed to say anything to my employer because they might punish me or fire me if I have a headache or I feel dizzy.

Encourage folks to speak up, normalize it.

And probably even more importantly, if we know it's a lot of immigrant communities who are engaging in these different types of industries, ensuring that we're providing all of these different plans and different languages, all of these trainings in different languages so that not only are we checking a box, I provided the training to the employee, but rather, I provided the training and I made sure that they had an understanding of exactly what is happening with themselves when they're at a work site, what are their rights.

And one of the things I forgot to mention while I was talking about Senate Bill 427 is it, if you've been to Las Vegas, you know how hot it gets here.

Walking from one casino to another might be a nonstarter for some of you. But in the northern side of our state, we have poor air quality.

We've had a lot of wildfires. And one of the things I always remind folks is you have to go out there and fight that fire.

You have to continue certain projects while we have these horrible air quality conditions. But what's the minimum standard for you to do that safely?

At what point should you have to wear a mask? How many breaks should you get in between all of that?

And that's also part of the legislation that we were working on.

But again, to me, the most important thing is if we know that we have vulnerable communities, that means we take an additional 2 or 3 steps of educating those communities to ensure that they're not just a piece of legislation that's protecting somebody, but that we're actually going deep into the heart of the communities and providing them the tools that they need and really the knowledge to protect themselves.

>> RA SIVAK:

Senator Flores, thank you so much.

I'm frantically writing as we try to understand and think outside of the box on heat-related illness.

When we had one of the physicians on the panel said we need to treat heat-related illness the same way we treat heart attacks.

Really taking it and seeing that it's something that impacts all of us.

And when we know that we're actually impacted it might be too late. So, thank you so much for sharing with that.

Dr. Williams, over to you.

Underrepresented communities and what you're seeing from your end, especially you said earlier about some of the challenges that are faced within your community up in Akiak, Alaska?

>> DR. WILLIAMS:

Yeah, just really appreciate that question. I think the most important thing right now is the relocation issue of communities.

The communities have no other choice but to relocate and the amount of resources that it needs to relocate or to do managed retreat, all of the agencies need to help coordinate to have one stop shop to make sure that barriers are not put up.

And I appreciate the Secretary's comment in dealing away with the red tape. And many of the communities have to deal with different agencies, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Homeland Security, there's many departments and federal agencies that we need to coordinate, and I believe that a one stop shop here in Alaska would help to take action in mitigating and to reach the community with one stop shop.

And I know that the issue of erosion in the communities and how we can deal with them, it's just really hard to deal with that, much as how Louisiana has done with their projects there in the flooding areas.

And again, like right now the erosion from the Arctic Ocean is going to be eroding the houses away, the electrical lines, the infrastructure, schools, many of the communities.

So, it's very expensive to do the relocation.

And it caused a lot of anxiety, mental issues, that when there's uncertainty of where to live and what they're going to do in the future, and we've seen that with our folks that were going to lose their homes here in Akiak and the families and the children that if we don't move out where are we going to live?

Because we already have lack of housing and et cetera.

So, a lot of the issues that we need to deal with in each community, each community has different needs, level of service and identifying them. So, I think we need to make sure that each community is prepared for their issues in their community. Thank you.

>> RA SIVAK:

Dr. Williams well said. Understanding your community, how you can respond to and recover from extreme heat.

What a wonderful way to share with all of us online about how we can be focusing on this especially with what's happening up in Akiak, and also across Alaska as well.

So, we're going to move into the question & answer session.

In the essence of time, what we're going to do is basically going to be kind of rapid around the table.

And I have a couple of questions, I'm going to go specifically for Senator Flores.

This is a question from our audience: How can we support OSHA efforts to protect worker rights standards?

If we can get an elevator ride, Senator Flores will start.

>> SENATOR FLORES:

Reach out to your local folks, whatever state respectively, they are subject matter experts.

One of the first things you'll realize is that OSHA themselves will share with you that the broader you keep regs, the easier it is for them to be implemented.

Rather than allowing yourself to fall into this idea that you have to fix every problem for every industry individually.

It's best to create a minimum standard and then allow for each industry to adapt to it. And that's the way that you support OSHA, going to them particularly if you're an employee, give your feedback right now in the State of Nevada, there is a roundtable discussion happening particularly with OSHA's involvement.

Get involved, have those conversations, don't try to fix every problem specifically, create broad regs.

>> RA SIVAK:

Senator Flores, get involved, make sure you get those minimum regulations. Well said.

Commissioner Shea, how can we better communicate the seriousness of extreme heat?

>> COMMISSIONER SHEA:

I honestly think we need to address the issue head on.

Young people are far more I would say aware about climate change and frankly angry with adults that we aren't doing more about it.

So, I think we need to have I'm calling them adult conversations about what's actually happening because of climate change.

And then I think we also need to have a clear understanding that the energy companies that have caused this and are making obscene profits from it need to be held accountable.

We've had legislation around tobacco, litigation I mean around tobacco and the harm caused to the public from that, around the opioid crisis.

And I do think we need to bring legislation around climate change and the harm that's been done to the planet.

NOTE:

The following portion of the transcript is included in the video recording (53:27).

I mean just the economic losses alone are staggering, not to mention the human impacts, the mental health impacts of people having to move from their homes, so their homes don't fall into the ocean, or relocate entire communities.

And then really the mental health impacts for young people, who just feel like their future is doomed because we haven't stepped up as adults and done more about it.

>> RA SIVAK:

Commissioner, thank you so much. Adult conversations focusing on the mental impacts, focusing on legislation. Thank you so much.

And I'm going to go around and ask one last question for each of you. And this is rapid round.

Dr. Williams, I'm going to start with you. What's one thing that could be done right now that our listeners could do to start focus on this important topic?

Dr. Williams, we'll start with you.

>> DR. WILLIAMS:

Have conversations and planning for each community right now.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you, Dr. Williams. Conversations on impacts to communities.

Senator Flores, you, sir.

>> SENATOR FLORES:

Email your legislators and demand that they participate in roundtables going on now and that they spearhead legislation.

If you want to take it a step further, run for office.

I'm serious.

If more individuals are in positions of power who care about these issues, we're going to be better off as a country and as a state. Run for office.

>> RA SIVAK:

Emailing legislators, great. It's a concrete thing that can be done to focus on an important topic.

Commissioner Shea, we're going to end with you. What's one thing our listeners can do right now?

>> COMMISSIONER SHEA:

I think people need a clear instruction on how to be prepared for the impact. But I think they also need to see that their leaders are taking action to reverse climate change and also hold the culprits accountable.

>> RA SIVAK:

Well said, Commissioner Shea. You bring this up, and the first thing I think of is this guide that was released.

As an emergency practitioner myself, I understand heat is truly a surprise, it happens every single year.

We have concrete things you all shared about what extreme heat can do to your communities across our nation.

While we conclude, I just first want to thank all of our panelists. You've shared your stories; you've shared what's impacted you and your communities focusing from your communities and talking about the impacts that's happening.

I want to thank you for taking time out of your schedules to just be with us today and share this.

One of the things I want to conclude with as we bring Victoria Salinas back on is this is a conversation that's not going to just end tomorrow or end today. It's a conversation that we all are having.

When we look back at the heat summit that we had right in May here in Chicago, it was so exciting to see Victoria sitting at the table, our Administrator, our Fire Administrator, nine federal agencies around to have this conversation and focus on building resilience within the community.

And the whole time, Victoria and I sat there and said, how do we continue to have this conversation? And this will continue to form the conversation we have moving forward.

So, I want to thank all of you today.

But really Victoria, you're going to lead us with a charge. And I just want to thank you for being with us as well, as we conclude this session.

>> VICTORIA SALINAS:

Thank you so much, Tom.

And thank you to our panelists, we appreciate the wisdom and experience you all shared today. It was really fantastic.

I want to end with a couple of takeaways.

We know the actions that need to be taken to address the risk posed by extreme temperature, particularly extreme heat.

Make a temperature response plan, we heard some great examples. Flores spoke to legislation, regulation, policy, and how you put things into action.

Even using your bathroom stalls of workplaces as a place and real estate to change behavior through behavioral science and better communications.

We heard about action two, conducting a threat in hazard identification and risk assessment in ways that Chief Williams is seeing how to do that in Alaska, thinking about future conditions.

And we've also heard from Shea and the governor in ways of different types of hazards are coming together, extreme heat with extreme drought, with extreme high hazard for fire.

All of these things coming together in so many places in this country.

And the importance of action three, plan for and adapt to future conditions.

We heard Williams speak to this around managed retreat in Alaska, permafrost, all kinds of different issues.

Shea spoke to need for holistic solutions, water conservation, and how we think of the big picture and the interconnectedness of our planet when we're taking actions not just today but in the future.

And we also heard about the fact that technology still has to catch up. AC cannot be the fix for extreme heat, because it also drives the increase in greenhouse gas emissions which is part of the problem we are tackling.

And so, technology will get there eventually, but we have to take more collective action. We also heard about the importance of adopting and enforcing building codes.

Another lever, another course of action for leaders at all levels of government to focus on. We at FEMA are also and this is where we get to my charge for everyone and I was watching the questions and answers, we had a couple on barriers to doing extreme heat projects.

And we at FEMA have been very focused on reducing barriers to all kinds of climate projects in order to better help underserved communities tackle these challenges.

And so last year we had 3% of our Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities projects primarily tackle extreme heat.

Just 3%, even though it is such a hazard.

My charge to you all is think about this source of resources, other programs, and let's get that number up higher.

We need more projects, more investments in our communities. We need to use all of those levers that exist to make sure we are addressing extreme temperatures and making our communities safer for all residents.

We've changed things like our benefit cost analysis here at FEMA in order to facilitate that, but any barriers we reduce are only as good as the projects and initiatives that you as leaders are working alongside your communities to deliver.

So, we really look forward to continuing this conversation and partnering with you to see us turn down the temperature in the summer and make communities safer for all. So, thank you so much for being here today.

Tom, thank you again for moderating this phenomenal conversation.

We hope everyone appreciates the brevity and focus of this new [Guidance on Extreme Temperatures for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Leaders](#), and we look forward to continuing to partner with you.

Back over to you, Tom.

>> RA SIVAK:

Thank you so much, Victoria.

Just as a reminder, this webinar has been recorded. It's going to be available so we can continue to go back and have this conversation and talk about the immediate short term and long-term things we can do to build resilience in your communities and across our nation.

Victoria, thank you so much.

And to all of you, our panelists, everyone, thank you for taking the time out of your schedules to focus on this important topic.

This is something that will continue to impact our communities across our nation and it's what we do today in preparation of tomorrow that will build resilience especially as it relates to extreme temperatures and extreme heat.

Thank you all so much for your time and with that, we will conclude this webinar, and please everyone be safe, stay cool, and thank you for your time. Take care, everyone.

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