

Fresno, other Valley cities set heat records

By Rory
Appleton



Alfredo Guitierrez Jr., 9, (left) and Alberto Gonzalez, 8, enjoy a frozen treat outside the Fresno Chaffee Zoo on Saturday.

RORY APPLETON — The Fresno Bee

Saturday's record-breaking high temperatures in Fresno and other Valley cities enticed residents to spend time in parks and indulge in icy treats.

Bill Peterson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford, said almost every city in the Valley set record highs on Saturday. The weather service reported that Fresno thermometers peaked at 88 degrees, four above the record high set in 2013.

Many Fresno residents took advantage of the early warmth by heading out to Roeding Park.

Diana Flores and her friends and family gathered around one of several mobile ice cream stands circling Fresno Chaffee Zoo.

"The heat is bad for the environment — we need water," she said. "But it's good for me. I love the warmth."

Flores, a frequent zoo visitor, said the park was packed with people on Saturday — a rarity this early in the year.

According to the group, the animals were also adjusting to the heat.

"Most of the animals were sleeping, and the crocodile didn't move at all," Maria Lombera said.

"The sea lions were so hot and tired," added 9-year-old Alfredo Guitierrez Jr. in-between bites of rainbow-colored

shaved ice.

Other Valley cities also set records.

Hanford's high of 89 was three degrees above the record set in 2007, and Madera's high of 88 was five degrees above a record set in 2007. Bakersfield's high of 91 broke a 99-year record by three degrees, and Merced also edged its temperature record by three degrees with a high of 84.

Coalinga edged its 2013 record high of 88 by one degree. Delano reported a high of 87, three degrees above the previous high set in 2007, and Wasco was torched with a high of 92, four degrees above the previous record set in 2007. Porterville's high of 88 broke a 1926 record by four degrees.

The warmth is expected to continue into Sunday, which has a predicted high of 88 in Fresno.

Temperatures are expected to drop back down next week. The weather service predicted a high of 81 on Monday, dropping down to the mid-70s by the middle of the week.

Staff writer Ricardo Cano contributed to the story. Contact Rory Appleton: (559) 441-6015, rappleton@fresnobee.com or [@RoryDoesPhonics](https://twitter.com/RoryDoesPhonics) on Twitter.