

# Record heat wave grips 7 states with little relief reported in sight

## Associated Press

Weather officials say little relief is in sight from a baking heat wave that toppled temperature records in at least seven states, threatened crops in Maryland and Delaware and sent children to a New Jersey municipal pool in shifts.

Both New York City and Philadelphia reported new highs yesterday of 98 degrees, beating New York's old mark of 97 set 52 years ago and Philadelphia's 42-year-old 97.

Downtown Atlantic City, N.J., reported a new high of 98, beating by five degrees the record for the day set 86 years ago. Baltimore's 102 toppled a 61-year-old record of 97 degrees.

The nation's capital reported a high of 98, tying the record set in 1925.

The National Weather Service said the blanket of hot, muggy air covered the eastern seaboard from the Carolinas to southern New England and little change is expected in the next few days.

Early morning temperatures today were already in the 70s and 80s throughout the region, the weather service said.

As temperatures climbed into the 100s for the second day in Maryland, Agriculture Secretary Wayne A. Cawley Jr. reported in a memoran-

dum to Gov. Harry Hughes that at least 30 percent of the state's corn crop — Maryland's largest — has already been lost to heat and drought this year.

The Delaware Crop Reporting Service also reported danger to crops, and Jack Tarburton, president of the Delaware Farm Bureau and a Dover-area potato farmer, said 60 percent of the state's potatoes weren't irrigated this year because of lack of water.

At the John F. Kennedy Swimming Pool in Newark, N.J., more than 200 youngsters had cooled off by mid-morning yesterday, said Dolores Seaman, overseer of the city's six municipal pools.

Utilities reported heavy demand for electricity yesterday by people wanting to cool off with fans and air conditioners.

The 300,000 customers of Delmarva Power & Light customers in Delaware used a record 1,824 megawatts of electricity between 4 and 5 p.m. — 29 megawatts more than the 1,795 used in one hour last Aug. 15, the previous high.

In New Jersey, Public Service Electric and Gas Co. reported a record peak load of 7,734 megawatts at 4 p.m. yesterday, breaking the mark of 7,721 megawatts set last Aug. 15, said spokesman Peter Laning.

In the New York City area, both Consolidated Edison and the Long Island Lighting Co., reported record energy use. LILCO spokesman William Sherrard said that if the heat wave continued, energy to industrial customers would be cut back and commercial and residential energy users would be asked to voluntarily limit their use.

Dr. Brian Brown, a physician at University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore, said yesterday "there was a dramatic increase in heat-related ailments today. I was surprised by the tremendous number of people affected by the heat. I'd say half the people in the emergency room are suffering from dehydration."

Temperatures reached 100 degrees yesterday at the Greenville-Spartanburg Jetport in Greer, S.C., breaking the record of 99 degrees set in 1977, the weather service said.

In Columbia, S.C., the temperature went to 100 degrees at Metropolitan Airport, while the reading at the University of South Carolina downtown was 103.

The heat extended as far west as Ohio, where officials in Cincinnati declared a "heat alert" yesterday and sent workers door to door to make sure the elderly, the chronically ill and disabled people were comfortable.