

Break in 100-degree heat index coming this week

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ANDERSON — Summer is at its steamy plateau, but Monday marked the only day this week temperatures were forecast to reach 100 degrees. Highs through Sunday cap at 95 degrees, and even heat indexes stay below triple digits, said Neil Dixon, a meteorologist at the National Weather Center.

There is a 30 percent chance of rain with a high of 95 degrees and a low of 71 Tuesday.

But it's still hotter than the average August day; the normal high for Aug. 9 is 91.

While much of South Carolina was under a heat advisory on Monday, the Upstate was waiting for a low-pressure ridge from the Mississippi River Valley to move in Tuesday night. The ridge will lower temperatures to 69 degrees Wednesday night. As the weekend nears, temperatures will continue to slowly fall. Thursday's high is 93 and the low is 69. Friday's high is also 93 with a low of 70.

There's a 30 percent chance of rain Saturday and Sunday, Dixon said.

On Monday, forecasters issued heat advisories and warnings for 30 counties stretching from the Midlands to cover the entire South Carolina coast. Heat index readings were expected to range from 105 to 112.

Regions must reach a heat-index value of 105 for three hours during the day to go under a heat advisory, Dixon said. Anderson was six degrees short on Monday. If temperatures reach 110 degrees, then a heat warning is issued.

Average temperatures recorded at the weather service infer that it will be late August before highs drop to the 80s in Anderson, and it will be the end of September before they fall to the 70s.

As fall nears temperatures will drop about one degree every three days, Dixon said.

"When you look at day-to-day changes it's the loss of large area of high pressure in central part of country now," he said.

Anderson County is still under the first level of drought, and lake levels are slightly down.

Hartwell Lake stood at 655 feet on Monday, according the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Jocassee is at 89 feet, about 11 feet shy of its target level, and Lake Keowee is 95.7 feet, about 3 feet below its target.