

Finally!

Cool down predicted after record heat

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The heat is still on in South Carolina.

The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning for 17 counties in the Midlands and southern coastal region of the state Wednesday as the heat index soared to 110 degrees in those areas.

A less-serious heat advisory was in effect in 17 other counties, including those in the Upstate.

Weather Service forecasters have said temperatures should begin to moderate somewhat today and continue to come down as the weekend approaches, falling into the low-80s through Friday and Saturday.

That will be welcome relief, particularly for people living or visiting near the beach as the heat index reached 117 along the coast from Charleston south to Beaufort.

This kind of heat is rare for South Carolina. The weather service typically issues warnings only when heat index values get to 110 degrees. While heat warnings were issued for five days in 2010, especially in southern South Carolina, warn-

ings weren't issued at all during the summers of 2008 and 2009.

The weather in South Carolina is symptomatic of a wider heat wave that had the temperature stuck on broil across a swath of the Midwest and South, with Dallas and Oklahoma City sweltering through 100-degree heat for at least 10 days in a row.

Heat advisories and excessive-heat warnings were issued Monday for 17 states in the Midwest and South. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Weather Service issued heat advisories for much of the East Coast, from Georgia to Connecticut, where temperatures were in the upper-90s but it felt as hot as 105 because of the humidity.

Hutchinson, Kan., had reached 103 by Monday afternoon after hitting a scorching 112 on Sunday. The mercury hit 99 in Joplin, Mo., by the afternoon after topping out on Sunday at 106, breaking the record of 104 for the date, set in 1980. Oklahoma City has hit 100 degrees or higher every day since June 29. The record there is 22 consecutive days of 100 degree-plus weather set in 1936.