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# ON THE GROUND





# The UK July 2022 Heatwave

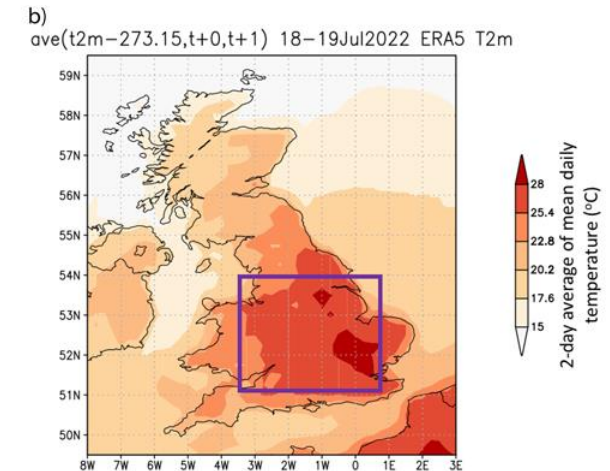
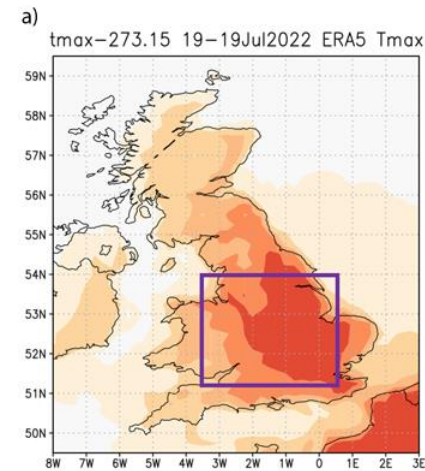
The UK experienced an unprecedented heatwave from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of July.

Extreme temperatures were recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of July.

**40.3°C** was recorded in Coningsby – **1.6°C higher than the previous UK temperature record** set in 2019.

The minimum temperature record was also broken.

Multiple temperature stations across England exceeded 40°C, 35°C was recorded for the first time ever in Scotland, and **temperature records were broken in 46 stations across the country.**



The World Weather Attribution scientists found that these extreme temperatures were at least **10 times more likely** as a result of human-caused climate change.



# National Emergency Level Heat

Level	
<b>0</b>	<b>Year-round planning</b> All year
<b>1</b>	<b>Heatwave and summer preparedness and action programme</b> 1 June to 15 September
<b>2</b>	<b>Heatwave is forecast – Alert and readiness</b> 60% or greater risk of heatwave in the next 2 to 3 days
<b>3</b>	<b>Heatwave action</b> Temperature reached in one or more Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service regions
<b>4</b>	<b>Major incident – Emergency response</b> Central Government will declare a Level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged heatwave affecting sectors other than health.

**2,227 excess deaths** (10.4% above average) were recorded over the heat period 10-25 July, with **1,012** of these deaths occurring **17-20 July** in those **aged >65**.

The Met Office issued its first **ever Red Extreme Heat Weather Warning**.

The UK Health Security Agency issued a **Level 4 Heat Health alert** for the first time since the heatwave plan was introduced in 2004. This resulted in the government declaring a **national emergency**.

Network rail issued a “do not travel” warning and many **rail services were severely disrupted** due to tracks buckling and cables sagging. Flights were also suspended at Luton airport.

Several fire services declared major incidents after **multiple fires broke out**.



# Health Professionals Feeling the Stress

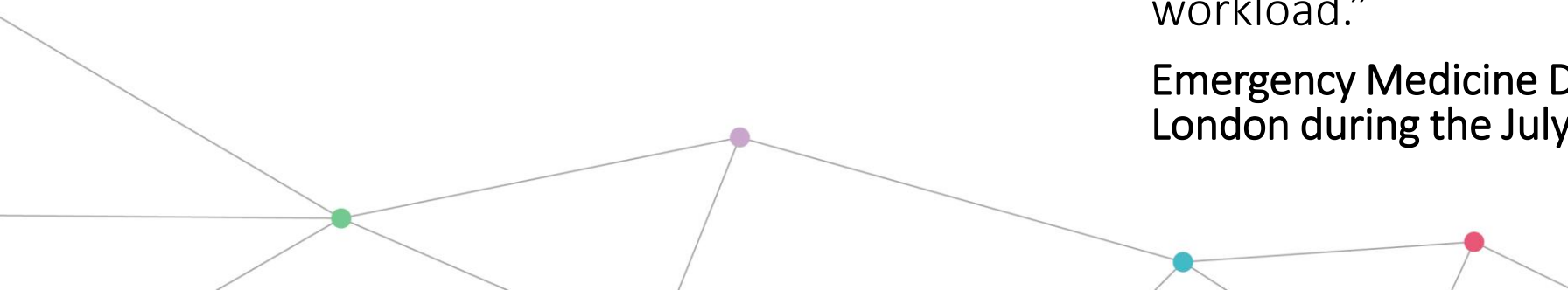


“I was responsible for the department at night. I remember sleeping [during the day] was almost impossible, as temperatures reached 38 degrees in our flat.

We received patients with heat related illness, something I have seen in London over the past few summers. Often it is the vulnerable or the elderly, left at home alone and with little reserve.

The IT systems of our nearest major hospital stopped working for several days as heat damaged their servers. This only increased our workload.”

**Emergency Medicine Doctor working night shift in London during the July 2022 heatwave**



# Thank you

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## THE LANCET



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