

Keep Phoenix Trails Open



PHOENIX PARKS SYSTEM

2024 VISITOR & RESCUE DATA

www.keepphoenixtrailsopen.org

Background

On October 24th, 2024, the City of Phoenix Parks Board voted to extend the 2020 “Phoenix Trails and Heat Safety Program” to include South Mountain Park, effectively **restricting access** to the Phoenix parks system and its trails during summer months.



The Facts

The Phoenix Park System counted ~2.96 million visitors in 2024 and had 213 mountain rescues.



The Facts

The majority of the rescues takes place during the coolest and busiest months of the year: October to April.

The Phoenix Fire Department received over 233,000 calls for service in 2024. Fewer than 0.08% of these calls were related to a mountain rescue.



~3 million

Trail users were registered by the Phoenix Parks trail access counters in 2024. This is down from a high of ~3.4 million in 2021 during the COVID pandemic.



~403,000

Visitors entered the parks during March, the busiest month of 2024. In comparison, August has 4X fewer visitors with only 87,500 registered entries.



213

Calls to the Phoenix Fire Department classified as Mountain Rescue in 2023. In total, the Phoenix Fire Department received 233,000 calls for all other services (fire, medical, accidents).



0.0007%

Likelihood that a visitor to a Phoenix Park required a mountain rescue in 2024. In other words, that is **similar to being struck by lightning** in your lifetime: 1 out of every ~15,000 people.



14%

Fewer rescues during summer months (May to Sep). In 2024, data shows ~ 15 rescues per month during summer months vs. ~17 during winter months.



The Way Forward

We do not believe that restrictive closures will reduce the already low number of rescues.

The Sonoran Desert is a rewarding and challenging place to exercise and enjoy nature. Education and trail stewardship can further reduce heat related rescues and benefit both visitor and first responder safety.



Data Sources

All data points in this slide deck are based on publicly available datasets:

Fire Department Data:

<https://www.phoenixopendata.com/dataset/calls-for-service-fire>

Visitor Data:

<https://www.phoenixopendata.com/dataset/hiking-trail-usage>



Learn More:

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