

# Hong Kong feels the heat as Observatory issues second ‘very hot’ weather warning in October

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12/10/2017



The Hong Kong Observatory issued an unprecedented second heat warning in October on Thursday as soaring temperatures baked the city.

HK Morning Briefing

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Parts of Hong Kong saw thermometers top 32 degrees Celsius, well above the October average of 25.5 degrees, just missing a record high. This was the second “very hot” weather warning issued by the Observatory after going at least 17 years without a single warning in the month. The first warning came on October 3.

“For today, the maximum temperature at the Observatory was 32.7 degrees, in fact it is quite hot for October weather but the highest record could still be up to 33-34 degrees in some years,” said Chan Yan-chun, scientific officer at the Hong Kong Observatory. “Still it is a very hot day compared to the [norm].”

The sweltering heat came a week after the Observatory declared last month as [one of the warmest Septembers](#) since records began in the 1880s.

“Very hot” weather warnings were issued on September 12, 13, 15, 18 and 26, with the one on September 26 lasting for more than 3 and a half days.



And there were 28 days in which the absolute daily maximum temperatures at the headquarters were higher than 30 degrees, compared with 19 days and 25 days in September last year and 2015 respectively.

The monthly mean temperature for the month was 29.0 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees above the normal 27.7 degrees, making the month one of the top four hottest Septembers since the city's forecasters started to document the data in 1884.

The same monthly mean temperatures were also recorded in 2014, 2008 and 1969.

Risks to public health include heatstroke and dehydration.

The Observatory on Thursday advised people who work outdoors to drink plenty of water and avoid over exertion, and to rest in the shade if they do not feel well.

It also told people to avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight, and wear loose clothing, hats and UV-blocking sunglasses.

Swimmers and people taking part in outdoor activities should use a sunscreen lotion of SPF 15 or higher, and should re-apply it frequently.

Some relief we come on Friday, Chan said.

"We are under the influence of the northeast monsoon so the temperature over the territory [Friday] will be slightly lower between 26-31 degrees. So we expect this very hot weather will ease off tomorrow."

The weather was expected to turn to rain on Saturday afternoon and continue into Sunday and Monday. High temperatures for the middle of next week were expected to touch 30 degrees.

A tropical depression skirting through the South China Sea was responsible for bringing the dry, hot weather to Hong Kong and southern China.

"An anticyclone aloft is bringing generally fine weather to southern China. Meanwhile, the northeast monsoon affecting the northern part of Guangdong is extending southwards," the Observatory said.

The tropical depression east of the Philippines would intensify but according to the latest track it will come within 400km of Hong Kong.