



# Weather Hazard Monitoring

## For Administrators

The Weather Resilience Lead and their alternate should regularly monitor weather forecasts and alerts. The Weather Resilience Lead should sign up and monitor the local and national forecast resources provided in this document. Registering for local emergency alerts via the local emergency management office can ensure the Weather Resilience Lead receives location-specific hazards alerts. While some systems are automatic, many are opt-in, and you may need to visit the local emergency management website to register.

The Weather Resilience Lead and clinic staff can access real-time weather alerts for their location on the National Weather Service (NWS) [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) website. To do this, enter the clinic zip code or click on the map. NWS provides a wide range of weather-related health risks including heat, flooding, poor air quality, tornadoes, strong winds, and more.

WPN ACTIVE ALERTS FORECAST MAPS RADAR RIVERS, LAKES, RAINFALL AIR QUALITY SATELLITE PAST WEATHER

Customize Your Weather.gov

City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

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Get Weather

Privacy Policy

Type in your city or zip

Created: 05/21/22 at 22:56 UTC

Click on your county

American Samoa Guam Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands

Click on the map above for detailed alerts or  Go Public Alerts in XML/CAP v1.1 and ATOM Formats

- Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Flash Flood Warning
- Severe Weather Statement
- Special Marine Warning
- Winter Storm Warning
- High Wind Warning
- Flood Warning
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch
- Gale Warning
- Freeze Warning
- Red Flag Warning (High risk fire conditions)
- Winter Weather Advisory
- Heat Advisory
- Flood Advisory
- Coastal Flood Advisory
- Small Craft Advisory
- Hazardous Seas Warning
- Lake Wind Advisory
- Wind Advisory
- Frost Advisory
- Rip Current Statement
- Gale Watch
- Flood Watch
- Fire Weather Watch
- Fire Weather Statement
- Special Weather Statement
- Marine Weather Statement
- Air Quality Alert

● Weather conditions relevant to clinics and health

In the map above, you can see that counties are color-coded by weather event. Some counties may have more than one alert, so you should directly access your county or zip code to see all active alerts.

The National Weather Service typically issues “watches” to indicate the potential for extreme weather and “warnings” when extreme weather is actively occurring. For more details, see below. You can also find specific definitions for various watches, warnings, and advisories at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov).

## Heat

For many weather hazards, the NWS uses consistent alert criteria across the nation. However, criteria for extreme heat and extreme cold can vary depending on location. While you do not need to memorize these regional differences because the NWS accounts for them when they provide an alert, it's important to understand what each type of alert signifies. For instance, a **Heat Advisory** indicates that extreme heat is expected, an **Excessive Heat Watch** means that extreme heat is possible, and an **Excessive Heat Warning** signals that extreme heat is currently occurring.

Another important consideration is that NWS alert thresholds are tailored to the public. As a result, vulnerable individuals and patients may be at risk before the NWS puts out an alert. For this reason, it is also important to check the [NWS/CDC HeatRisk tool](#) during heat season, which provides heat risk information based on location-specific health impact data and considers vulnerable/sensitive groups. As clinics and health centers care for vulnerable populations, aligning heat response and communication actions to the HeatRisk tool is recommended. A screenshot of the HeatRisk tool can be seen below.

### NWS HeatRisk

Identifying Potential Heat Risks in the Seven Day Forecast

Wed 6/12	Thu 6/13	Fri 6/14	Sat 6/15	Sun 6/16	Mon 6/17	Tue 6/18
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[Click map for potential heat risks and NWS forecast for a location.](#)

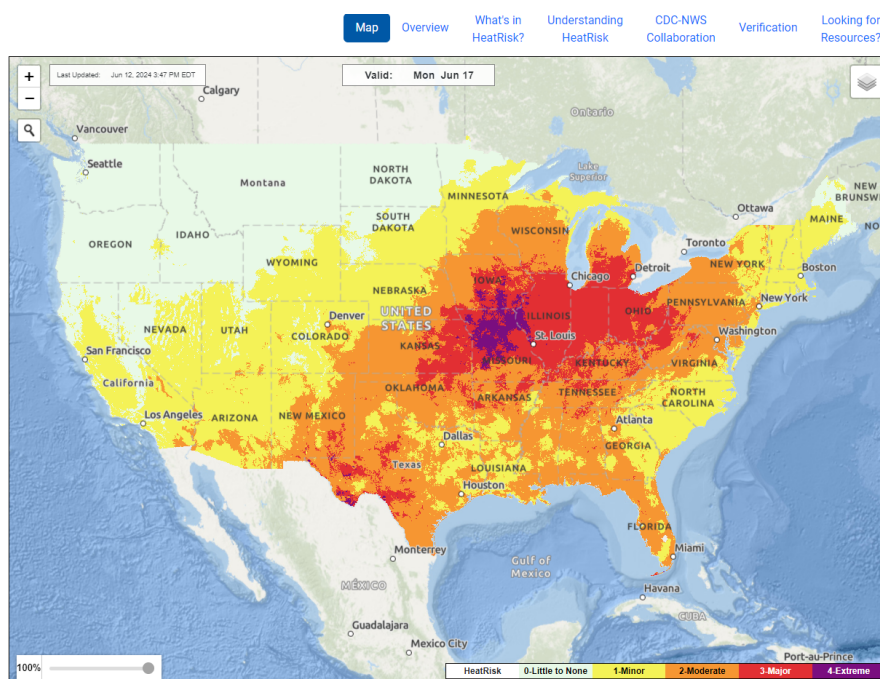
The NWS HeatRisk is an experimental color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. HeatRisk takes into consideration:

- How unusual the heat is for the time of the year
- The duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures
- If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the CDC

This index is supplementary to official NWS heat products and is meant to provide risk guidance for those decision makers and heat-sensitive populations who need to take actions at levels that may be below current NWS heat product levels.

Category	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

[Comments? Questions? Please Contact Us.](#)



## Hurricanes

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is the primary agency responsible for monitoring and forecasting tropical cyclones (hurricanes) in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins. [The NHC website](#) provides comprehensive information on current and potential hurricanes, including their location, intensity, and projected path. If your clinic or health center is in a region historically impacted by hurricanes, the Weather Resilience Lead should regularly monitor the NHC website during hurricane season (June 1 to November 30) for any developing storms that may impact the clinic's location. In addition to the website, the NHC also provides a mobile app (National Hurricane Tracker App) for easy access to hurricane information on-the-go.

## Wildfires

To monitor wildfire risk and smoke conditions, the Weather Resilience Lead should utilize several key resources. The National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) provides a [seven-day wildfire risk outlook](#) that highlights areas of elevated fire potential across the country. For more region-specific wildfire information, the NICC also maintains a list of [Geographic Area Coordination Centers](#) that provide detailed updates on fire activity and response efforts in their respective areas.

## Smoke

In addition to monitoring wildfire risk, it is crucial to track smoke conditions, as wildfire smoke can have significant impacts on air quality and public health, even in areas far from active fires. The Environmental Protection Agency's [AirNow website](#) offers real-time and 24hr forecasts of air quality for locations across the United States. To use this resource, simply enter the zip code for which you want air quality information.

The [AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#) is another valuable resource that combines data from multiple sources to provide a comprehensive view of wildfires and smoke conditions. Wildfire information may not be updated regularly and should be cross referenced via other sources.

Lastly, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s [High-Resolution Rapid Refresh \(HRRR\)](#) provides the most accurate current and future smoke forecasts data. Once you are viewing the map screen, select the small eye icon for surface smoke under the NOAA's Rapid Refresh (RAP) category, or the eye icon for near surface smoke under the HRRR category. Then press the play button on the bottom left corner of the screen. This will provide current and future smoke forecasts.

By regularly monitoring these resources, the Weather Resilience Lead can stay informed about climate change risks and take appropriate actions to protect the health of clinic patients and staff.

## Notes: