







Seasonal Spring Safety Campaign Starts March 1st

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

Getting spring fever? Well we have good news: March 1 is the start of climatological spring. Make sure that you, your family, and your social network are prepared for the various spring hazards, such as severe weather, flooding, and beach hazards (heads up, Spring Breakers!). New content will be posted on <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/spring-safety> for viewers to share with others.

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|  <p>Social Media Plans</p> |  <p>Infographics</p> |  <p>Videos</p> |
|  <p>Presentations</p> |  <p>Spanish content</p> |  <p>Partners</p> |

The Spring Outlook Launches March 21st

By: Erica Grow, NWS Meteorologist



Mark your calendars! On March 21, the Spring Outlook for the April through June 2024 period will be released. This event will be geared toward the media and will be an opportunity for them to ask questions on the upcoming outlook.

The Spring Outlook will feature experts from the Climate Prediction Center and National Water Center, who will provide the outlook for temperatures, precipitation, drought conditions, and flood potential in the United States for April through June 2024. A news conference will be held at 11AM EST on GoToWebinar with the details.

Seeking Comments for Proposed Changes to the OPC 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast

By: Monica Parker, Aware Editor

From now until March 6, 2024, The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) is accepting comments for several proposed changes to the 24-hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts issued by the OPC. With these changes, the 24-Hour Surface and Wind and Wave Forecast Charts will expand their coverage area, the expanded 24-hour Wind and Wave Forecast Chart will change units to meters, and the expanded 24-hour Surface chart will remove references to fog and the Gulf Stream.

For the details on these changes and what they will entail, or to see examples of the proposed charts, please read the original [Public Information Statement](#).

Weather Warnings Save Lives During Rare Wisconsin February Tornado

By: Monica Parker, Aware Editor

The state of Wisconsin had never had a recorded tornado in the month of February until this year. On February 8, one of two tornadoes tracked just outside Evansville, Wisconsin in the evening hours. A family was ready to eat dinner when they received the tornado warning on their phones. They took immediate action by going to their safe place – the basement. Based on the damage to the rest of their house, the tornado warning and their quick actions saved their lives. This event demonstrates a great lesson for everyone:

- Ensure you are able to receive warnings from multiple sources (e.g., Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, commercial apps).
- Don't hesitate. Take immediate action to get to your safe place – a predetermined location that the whole family knows to go to. Only then, should you seek additional information.



For more details on the tornado event, check out the [February Severe Weather summary](#) on the Milwaukee/Sullivan Weather Forecast Office site.

Eastern Region Service Equity Team Aims to Bridge the Gap Between the Forecaster and Social Science

By: NWS staff

Forecasters hear it all the time: social science is an important part of the forecast process. It's true! Accuracy is only the beginning of the primary mission to protect lives and property. How that forecast is received, interpreted, and understood by someone in the community could have serious and potentially fatal consequences if the message is not received as intended.

In fact, it has been well established that certain end users and their communities are more at risk than others due to physical, geographical, or socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Service equity efforts attempt to address the various needs of these communities. This is known more commonly as "going the last mile" with the forecast.

Forecasters are often asked the question, "What can we as forecasters do about it? Forecasters have limited resources and can't knock on every door to make sure the message is being heard." The operational meteorologists

of Eastern Region understand the difficulty and are working on solutions!

In early 2023, Eastern Region (ER) Director **Dr. Jason Tuell** chartered the Eastern Region Service Equity Team, which is composed of nine ER managers and bargaining unit employees (listed below) representing eight ER WFOs. The objectives of the team are three-fold:

1. Adapt NWS culture to embrace equitable service.
2. Develop a robust, cohesive, and holistic community engagement strategy.
3. Apply tools and technology to better serve the needs and reach the historically underserved vulnerable communities.

The Eastern Region Service Equity Team aren't the only ones that are out there that can help. Social science is growing within the agency at a rate never seen before. With this in mind, the team spent much of the first half of 2023 talking to social scientists within and outside of the agency, gathering information on existing efforts and making sure that the team's work was both in line with and not duplicative of these endeavors. Among others, this included talking to the NOAA Weather Program Office's Social Scientists, NWS Science and Technology Integration's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBES) Group, as well as the NWS Office of Central Processing's AI Language Translation project. That just scratches the surface. There is a LOT going on out there!

To this end, the Eastern Region Service Equity Team has its own social science network to assist offices new to service equity and share the best practices of offices with existing connections to at-risk communities. These connections and shared success stories will help offices develop new perspectives on how to commit to service equity and reach at-risk and underserved communities.



NWS Newport/Morehead City, NC meteorologist **Ryan Fuchek** learns about hopscotch from a subject matter expert during a faith-based community outreach event at an African Methodist Episcopal Church in Kinston, NC.

Save the Date! #SafePlaceSelfie Day Is April 3rd

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

What is the #1 preparedness action that everyone should take? Many experts would say it's knowing your safe place when extreme weather threatens. The NWS and our Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors encourage everyone to identify common hazards in your area, determine your safe place, and then take a selfie and post it on social media anytime on April 3 using the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie. We encourage everyone to be creative with selfies and to challenge others to do the same. To learn more about #SafePlaceSelfie Day, check out the webpage [here](#).

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Managing Editor: [Monica Parker](#), Editors: Mark Tew, Doug Hilderbrand, Wendy Levine
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Subscribe/Unsubscribe: monica.parker@noaa.gov