

## University Collaborations and Community Outreach

NWS Fairbanks has a proud history of involvement with both the academic realm and the general public. The Forecast Office has conducted many collaborative projects with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) under the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training (COMET). In addition, the forecast office delivers weather data each day to the research community. The NWS office also is active in public outreach through tours, demonstrations and lectures on a variety of weather related topics.

NWS Fairbanks has a rich tradition of community outreach activities. We have participated in the Spring Air Fair Show/Northern Aviation Expo, HAM Fest (Amateur Radio), the Fairbanks Winter Trade Show, the National Science Foundation-funded Partners in Science project in Fairbanks, as well as UAF=s Geophysical Institute Math and Science Enrichment Program. Our staff are available for community activities such as classroom projects, exhibitions, informative talks, and tours of our facility.

### Weather Spotters

An important component to our Weather Warning Program is Weather Spotters. We have begun to build a Spotter Network of trained volunteers who act as our eyes and ears during hazardous weather.

We are seeking to establish spotters in each of our 26 forecast zones, including several in each village.

### Amateur Radio

In 2001, NWS Fairbanks established its amateur radio station, **KL7FWX**. We enjoy working with the Arctic Amateur Radio Club in Fairbanks, and HAMs throughout Alaska.

### Cooperative Observers Network

Co-op Observers have always been an important part of forecasting in Alaska. These volunteers take daily observations of temperature and precipitation as well

as river levels and ice measurements.

New observers join each year, but we still need more to be able to reach our goal of one observer in every village and geographical area.

### Need more information ?

If you have any questions or interest in any of our services, outreach, or volunteer programs, please contact:

**John Lingaas**

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Phone: 907-458-3712

email: john.lingaas@noaa.gov

### How to get our Forecasts

**Internet:** <http://pafg.arh.noaa.gov>

#### **NOAA Weather Radio:**

Weather information for areas surrounding Fairbanks, Barrow, Nome and Kotzebue is broadcast continuously. Special receivers can be purchased which will pick up the warning alarm tone or Emergency Alert System (EAS) signal which is sent when a warning is issued from this office.

#### **NOAA Weather Radio @ 162.55 MHz**

Transmitters at: **Fairbanks:** WXJ81

**Barrow:** KZZ53

**Kotzebue:** KWN30

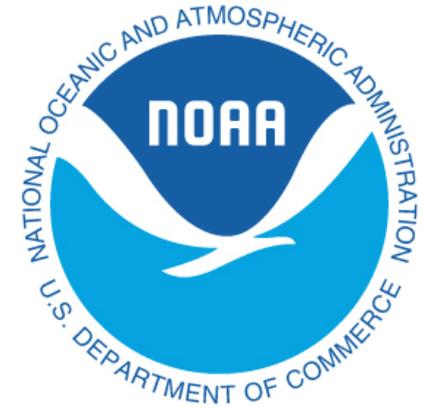
**Nome:** WXJ62

#### **Alaska Weather Line:**

Forecasts issued by the National Weather Service for all of Alaska are available on the Alaska Weather Line. This is a menu system organized by regional areas of the state. For more information, visit our website.

#### **To call the Alaska Weather Line:**

**Fairbanks: 458-3745**



**Statewide: 1-800-472-0391  
(Toll-free in Alaska)**

**National Weather  
Service  
Fairbanks, Alaska**

<http://pafg.arh.noaa.gov>

International Arctic Research Center  
Building  
930 Koyukuk Drive, Room 351  
University of Alaska - Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7345

Phone: 907-458-3700  
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**The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent water, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.**

## Forecast Area and Responsibilities

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Fairbanks oversees the northern two-thirds of Alaska. The southern boundary of our region begins at the crest of the eastern and central Alaska Range and Kuskokwim Mountains as well as the Lower Yukon River, and extends north to the Arctic Coast, east to the Canadian border, and West to the Bering Strait.

Our area of responsibility totals nearly 512,000 square miles. This vast region provides the widest temperature range in North America (90 degrees F in summer to 37 degrees F in winter).

Weather data from observing systems such as radar, surface, satellite, and upper air balloons are collected many times a day and are processed and distributed to each NWS forecast office. NWS staff then use this



data in concert with computer models to prepare forecasts that are used by people throughout Alaska.

## Forecast Services

NWS Fairbanks has several programs that are provided to assist the public as well as maritime, aviation, and emergency management interests and provide appropriate warnings as needed:

### Aviation

NWS Fairbanks is responsible for Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) of cloud ceilings, visibility, and winds for 12 airports within our forecast region. TAFs are used by pilots and flight operations staff.

### Public

When hazardous weather conditions are expected for Northern Alaska, our office issues watches, warnings, and advisories. A variety of severe weather impacts Northern Alaska residents, such as strong winds, blizzards, extreme wind chills, heavy snowfalls, freezing rain, and coastal floods. In addition to these hazardous weather products, twice each day we issue seven-day forecasts for our 26 public zones. These forecasts include temperature, cloud cover, precipitation probability, and winds. From May through mid-July, we issue a Recreational Forecast for climbers on Mt. McKinley.

### Marine

Marine forecasts are specifically tailored to the maritime interests of Alaska. Warnings and advisories are issued for wind speeds and sea state. NWS Fairbanks issues forecasts of wind speed/direction as



well as wave height for nine marine zones twice a day. These forecasts extend out to five days.

## Fire Weather

During fire season (May-August), NWS Fairbanks is responsible for issuing 26 fire weather zone forecasts twice a day. These forecasts are used by fire management authorities in assessing fire threat. The fire program is also responsible for the issuance of fire weather watches and red flag



warnings when extreme fire weather conditions are expected.

## Hydrology

NWS Fairbanks, in coordination with the Alaska River Forecast Center in Anchorage, is responsible for issuing flood watches, warnings, and advisories for flooding due to heavy rain events, snow and glacier runoff, and ice jams. In addition, our service hydrologist and technicians are responsible for maintaining river gages in our forecast area as well as conducting damage surveys when flooding occurs.

