



SKYWARN Newsletter

Program Update: 2024 Edition

Winter 2024 Virtual Classes Announced!

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE:

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Fri, Jan 5th 6 - 8PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Tue, Jan 16th 5 - 7PM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Tue, Jan 23rd 5:30 - 8PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Thu, Feb 8th 6 - 8PM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Thu, Feb 15th 5:30 - 8PM CT

IN-PERSON COURSE SCHEDULE:

We are planning to offer several in-person courses coming up in 2024 across the NWS New Orleans area! Be sure to check our online webpage weather.gov/neworleans/skywarn or on social media [@NWSNewOrleans](https://twitter.com/NWSNewOrleans) for the latest!

NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office is happy to announce another round of Basic & Advanced SKYWARN courses to be offered virtually for the Winter 2023/2024 Season! Be sure to spread the news to family and friends or anyone that would be interested! As a reminder, it is recommended that you attend refresher courses every two to three years.

These courses are always presented live, with interactive polls to maximize engagement. You will also be able to interact and talk with a NWS forecaster during a Q and A session at the very end!

TO REGISTER, VISIT:

[WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS/SKYWARN](https://weather.gov/neworleans/skywarn)

Course dates may be subject to change, especially if hazardous weather threatens the area during the scheduled class time.

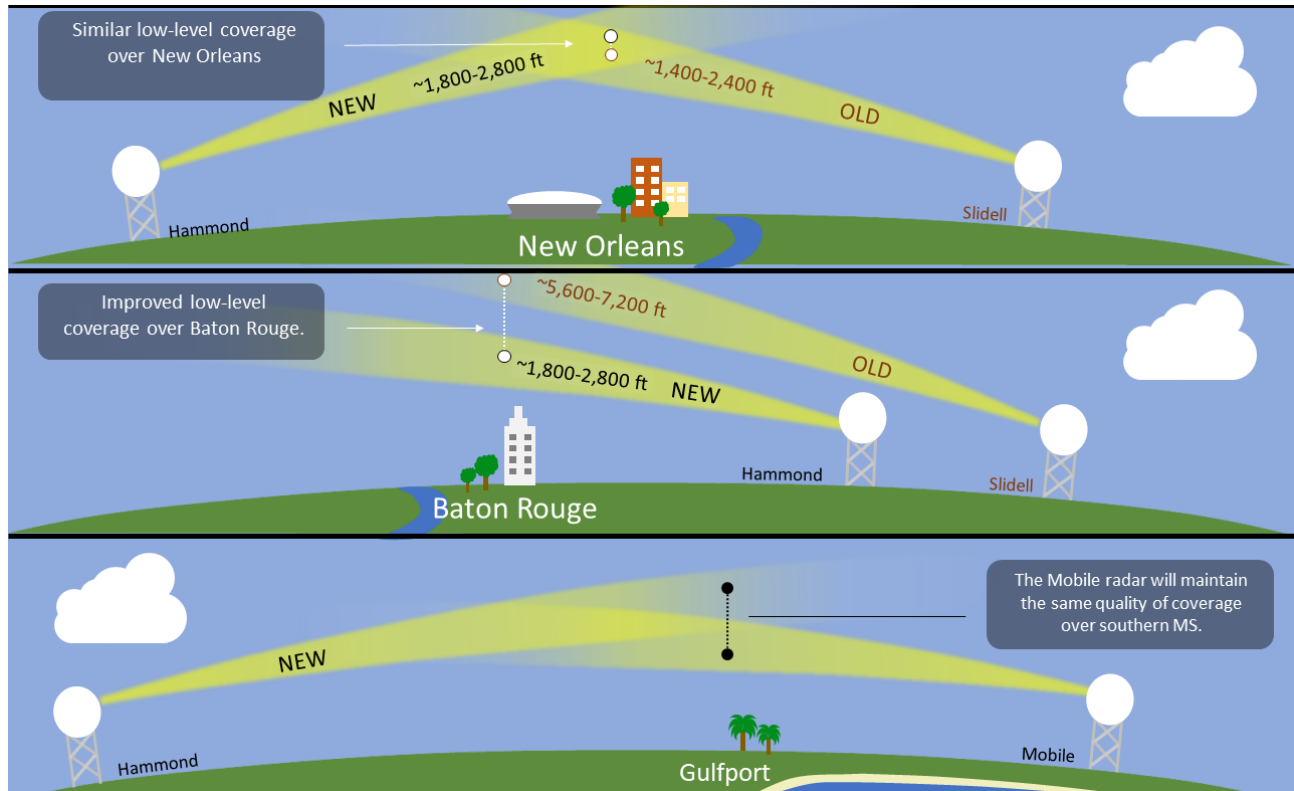
COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Basic Course: Covers all the basics associated with tornadoes, hazards, the EF-scale, and local climatology, then dives into other forms of severe weather, including pulse (summer) storms, microbursts, squall lines and flash flooding. Each Basic course includes interactive polls, and ends with a short quiz to apply all you have learned. This course lasts around 2 hours, not including any discussion or questions at the end.

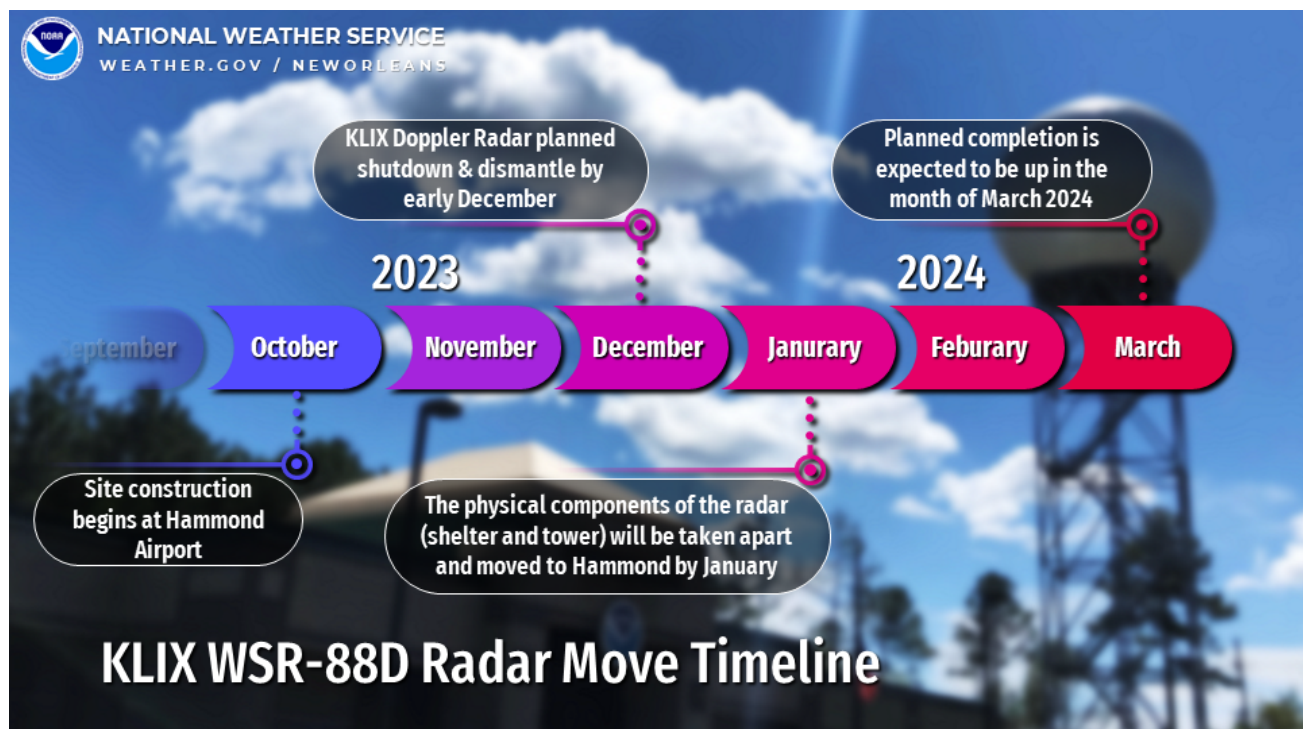
Advanced Courses: **[Highly recommended to take the Basic course before the Advanced Course]** Topics include severe weather forecasting; radar and its applications; storm mode and motion; and supercells and types of tornadoes. Each Advanced course includes interactive polls, and ends with true/false tornado myths. This course lasts around 2.5 hours, not including any discussion or questions at the end.

Top News: KLIX WSR-88D Radar Move from Slidell to Hammond is Underway!

Big news! The KLIX WSR-88D Doppler Radar move from Slidell to Hammond is underway! As of December 2023, dismantling of the radar in Slidell has begun, with construction ongoing at the Hammond Airport at its future new location. There are two main benefits to this project. The first is much-improved, lower scanning than before across the Atchafalaya Basin and Capitol region of Baton Rouge. The other is adding a new lower tilt at 0.3° (previously 0.5°), which will provide even greater coverage with no reduction or degradation of scanning height elsewhere across the area.

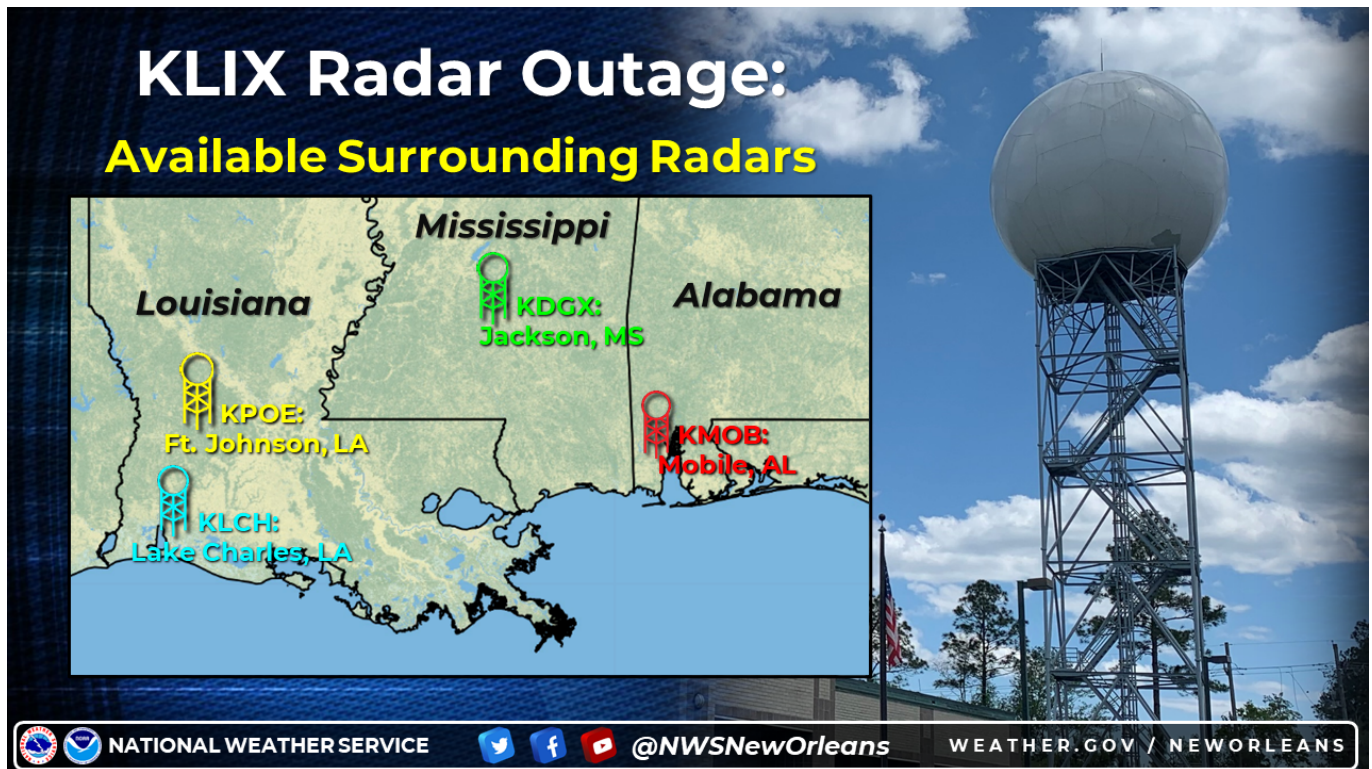


Planned completion is expected to be up in the month of March 2024, with a new ICAO identifier (previously KLIX) will now be KHDC. See the timeline below!



(Continued): KLIX WSR-88D Radar Move from Slidell to Hammond is Underway!

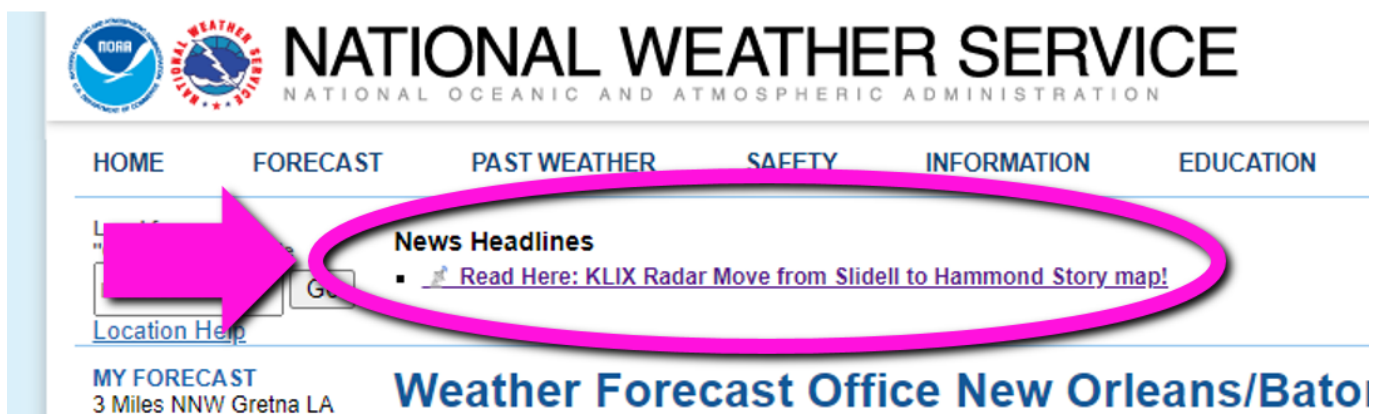
Neighboring radars will still be available to our west, north and east during this downtime. The local terminal doppler radar (TMSY) located at Norco, LA will also be used.



We will continue to provide updates to our social media pages, as well as video updates on our Youtube Channel (@NWSNewOrleans). Additionally, you can read more information on our ArcGIS Story Map page. The Story Map includes an overview as well as technical information, an FAQ, forecaster adaptability, etc.


Visit: <http://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ac47e4bc5bb544bcb2ea4cc7e411e51c>

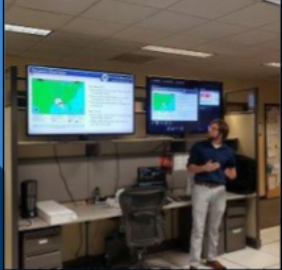
Or visit the top link on the headline portion of our main webpage www.weather.gov/lix.



Announcement: NWS College Student Volunteer Program!

NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge 2024 Student Volunteer Program





Volunteer Expectations:



- Receive hands-on experience on NWS Operations
- Observe outreach and DSS events
- Perform a research project

Eligibility Requirements:


- Pursuing a degree in meteorology or atmospheric science
- Available to volunteer 2-3 days a week (16-24 hours)

Needed to Apply:

- Resume
- Unofficial Transcript
- Cover Letter (optional)
- Letters of Recommendation (optional)



[More Information Below:](#)



NWS New Orleans is excited to announce the next round of college student volunteer opportunities for Summer 2024! If you or a college student you know would be interested in getting hand-on experience on how the NWS works, apply today!

Check out our website at <https://www.weather.gov/lix/StudentVolunteerApplication> to learn more about this opportunity. The deadline to apply is February 16, 2024.

10/23/2023 Super Fog Event Storymap

10/23/2023 Super Fog Event

An event review of the deadly super fog event that resulted in multiple car accidents along I-55 near Manchac, LA on Oct. 23rd.

NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA
November 3, 2023

On the morning of Monday, October 23rd 2023, a devastating multiple car accident occurred along I-55 near Manchac, LA caused by dangerous super fog conditions reducing visibility to near zero.

NWS New Orleans created an ArcGIS Story Map page to summarize this event explaining the meteorology behind super fog, as well as forecasting challenges and detailed event timeline.

Check it out! <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e83c98813ef944bab3afc36a53b7f644>

Testing: New (Additional) Method to Send Reports!

**TEXT US
YOUR REPORTS!**

TEXT:
504-527-8678

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WEATHER.GOV / NEWORLEANS

If possible, let us know:

What
[tell us what happened]

Where
[where the severe weather occurred at]

When
[the time the severe weather occurred]

Examples Include...

Tree Damage

Hail

Flooding

Our local NWS office will be testing a new (additional) method for spotters & the public to send reports of severe weather! A new texting option gives you the ability to send your reports (and even photos) directly to our NWS Chat from your cell phone!

The graphic above will be posted on our social media platforms ahead/during severe weather events and will remain experimental through portions of the upcoming 2024 season, and may be subject to change/be removed pending the testing phase. If you see severe weather, give this option a try to (safely) send your reports!

Reporting Reminders

As always mentioned in our Basic and Advanced courses, there are multiple ways to relay weather reports to the forecasters here at NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge.

What to Report:

- Hail of ANY size
- Winds greater than 58 mph
- Wind Damage
- Tornadoes, Waterspouts, Funnel Clouds
- Widespread flooding covering roadways or inundating property.

Remember, there are multiple ways to report severe weather to us directly!

Call us!

504-522-7330

or: **985-649-0357**

Use Ext 4 to speak with a forecaster on shift.

What we need to know:

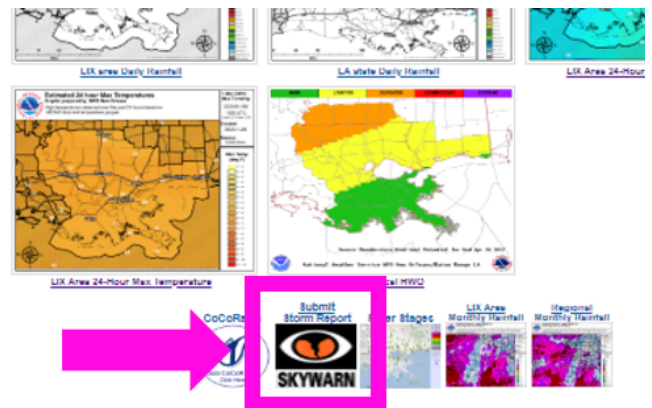
- **Who you are:**
 - Let us know you are a trained spotter.
- **What you witnessed:**
 - Specific weather event
- **When the event occurred:**
 - NOT the time of the report
- **Where the event occurred:**
 - Direction and distance from your location

Always remember safety!

- Never put yourself in harm's way!
- Keep a safe distance.
- Do not expose yourself to life-threatening weather. Stay sheltered until it passes.
- NEVER get in the way of local rescue officials following a devastating weather event.

Through our Website!

Visit www.weather.gov/lix and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the SKYWARN logo with the label "Submit Storm Report"



This will take you to a Google Form to fill out which will transmit your report directly to forecasters on shift!

Through Social Media!

 **Tweet us @NWSNewOrleans**

 **Facebook: @NWSNewOrleans**

Any questions or concerns? Feel free to reach out to us anytime! Give us a call or email us at sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov

We plan to continue these newsletter updates annually to bring you the latest updates to the spotter program, as well as new changes in NWS products nationwide or locally here at WFO LIX. Stay tuned!

-Kevin Gilmore
SKYWARN Program Leader
WFO LIX New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA