



NORTHLAND WRN AMBASSADORS

April 2023

NWS Duluth, MN

Issue 9



Weather-Ready Nation National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Inside the Issue

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS!

Spotter Training Classes
Severe Weather Awareness
Week: April 17-21
Outdoor Warning Sirens
p.2

CAMPING TRIP PLANNING

Tips for planning a camping
trip and staying safe on
wilderness adventures
p. 3

COLD WATER

Spring means warmer
temperatures, but the
water is still cold!
p. 4

SPRING FLOODING INFORMATION

Concerned about spring flooding this year with all the snow we have had? That's a valid concern, especially if we have a fast snow melt and rain falls while the snow is melting, which will only add to how high water levels get. Unfortunately, if you have had spring snowmelt flooding in the past, it is likely to happen again this spring.



More information about spring flooding is at:

- Our Spring flood outlook information:
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/spring-flood-outlook>
- Spring Flooding information and Resources:
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/spring-flooding>
- Rainy River specific information:
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/rainyriverbasin>
- Flood Safety Info: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>



APRIL 17-21 2023 IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Are you ready for severe weather? Each year, state HSEM in collaboration with the National Weather Service sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Find more information at:

- [Minnesota Department of Public Safety](#)
- [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#)

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Facts and figures about outdoor warning sirens:

- Outdoor Sirens are NOT designed to be heard from inside a building or even vehicles
- Sirens are activated by city/county officials, not by the National Weather Service
 - We just issue the warnings that *may* prompt siren activation
- Different municipalities have varying criteria for what prompts siren activation within their area
 - Contact your local public safety officials for details
- Usually can only be heard within 1 to 2 miles of a siren, depending on conditions
- If a siren stops, it DOES NOT mean the threat has ended
- There is no such thing as an all-clear siren
- There are NO SIRENS at all for a very large portion of the Northland!



SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

- A mix of virtual and in person classes this year!
- Free class lasting about two hours, delivered online via webinar
- Learn all about thunderstorms, including how to identify different parts of storms!
- Severe weather safety and preparedness tips
- All classes are appropriate for all ages - invite the whole family to watch and interact!
- Become an official spotter for our office
- Advanced spotter classes:
 - Will go more in-depth into storm features and radar interpretation
 - Take the normal/basic course first

Register at
[weather.gov/
duluth/skywarn](https://weather.gov/duluth/skywarn)

Skywarn Spotter
Class Schedule:

- April 10th at 6:30 PM CDT *Superior, WI*
- April 11th at 6 PM CDT *Hinckley, MN*
- April 13th at 6:30 PM CDT *Duluth, MN*
- April 19th 6:30 PM CDT *Virtual*
- And many more, including Advanced classes!

Check
weather.gov/duluth/skywarn
for additional classes and more information!



Visit

https://www.weather.gov/wrn/spring_safety

for useful spring safety information you can share on social media, website or to print out and share with your visitors!

PLANNING A CAMPING TRIP?

Be sure you'll be safe while you're enjoying your fresh air and connecting with nature! Thunderstorms pose a significant risk to people out camping, whether it's your backyard, or out in the middle of the wilderness.

No place outside is safe from lightning! If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors. Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the United States, and between 20 and 30 people are killed each year.

Backcountry settings, like much of the BWCA, are at least a 30 minute walk from the nearest vehicles or modern buildings where you can easily find safe shelter. There are actions that can reduce your lightning risk in the backcountry, but none of them can make you as safe as getting in a modern building or a metal-topped vehicle.

Unfortunately, shelter is often unavailable in the wilderness. Therefore, the best thing to do is reduce your risk.

Once you get out on your wilderness adventure:

- Tents, RVs and Campers are NOT safe shelters from thunderstorms
- Have an Evacuation Plan!
 - Know where and how fast you can find shelter and/or help
- Avoid Peaks, Ridgetops, Overhangs, Cave entrances, Isolated and/or tall trees, metal objects, & bodies of water
- Better Options: Low spots away from tall trees (not prone to flooding), short trees with uniform height, being at least twice the tree height away from tall trees
- Reduce ground contact and spread out your group
 - Lessens the chance of being harmed by ground current
 - Spreading out the group improves the odds that someone will be able to help the injured and/or get help



More information is at:

- <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>
- https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/backcountry_lightning.pdf
- <https://www.noaa.gov/jetstream/lightning/lightning-safety>

COLD WATER SAFETY

When the temperatures finally warm up, there's always a delay before the water warms in our lakes, rivers and streams. Average water temperatures for Lake Superior in April and May are typically colder than forty degrees. Inland lakes are warmer than that by the time fishing season begins, but not by much. 55 degree water may not sound very cold, but it can be deadly. Plunging

into cold water of any temperature becomes dangerous if you aren't prepared for what the sudden exposure can do to your body and brain. Warm air temperatures can create a false sense of security for boaters, so if you are planning to be on or near the water, arrive knowing the conditions and how to protect yourself. Cold water drains body heat up to 4 times faster than cold air. Being prepared for an outing on cold water means being prepared for the possibility of suddenly being immersed into the cold water. Your ability to survive cold water immersion depends on your ability to stay afloat and to stay warm until help arrives.

THE DANGERS OF COLD WATER

Hypothermia occurs when the body's core temperature falls below normal & can become fatal

Hypothermia occurs faster in children and elderly

Body heat is lost significantly faster in cold water than in cold air

The onset of hypothermia can occur shortly after entering the water

Alcohol consumption speeds the onset of and progression of hypothermia

Signs of Hypothermia Include:

1. Shivering
2. Cold hands and feet
3. Poor coordination, numbness, loss of dexterity
4. Mental sluggishness
5. Pain from cold

If you see someone with any of these signs, get help immediately!

Duluth, MN

Wearing a life jacket significantly increases chances of survival.

Below are several things to consider prior to venturing out on cold water:

- Always wear a life jacket in and around the water.
- Dress for water temperature, not for air temperature.
 - Examples include: Wet suit, Dry suit, Immersion suit, Survival suit or Exposure coveralls
- Carry an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), personal locator beacon (PLB) or VHF Radio.
- File a float plan with someone you trust. The plan should include details about the trip, boat, passengers, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment, and emergency contacts. More information on Float Plans is at: <https://www.paddlesafetwinports.org/floatplan.php>
- Know Before You Go:
 - Be sure to check the weather and water temperature before you go out on the water
 - If water is too cold, consider staying off/out of water until water is warmer

Find More Information at:

- weather.gov/safety/coldwater
- <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/>
- www.coldwatersafety.org/
- <https://www.paddlesafetwinports.org/>



WEATHER READY NATION AMBASSADORS

The National Weather Service office in Duluth, Minnesota is calling on community organizations and agencies to become Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassadors. WRN Ambassadors help in spreading WRN messages and building community resilience to extreme weather.



This goal requires more than just the National Weather Service.

It requires the entire community, its government, organizations and businesses to provide information for better decision making, and innovative partnerships across all segments of society. Everyone should be involved in the effort to move people and society, toward heeding warnings, taking action, and influencing their circles of family, friends, and social network to act appropriately.

As a WRN Ambassador, you will serve as a leader in your community. You will inspire others to be better informed and prepared, helping to minimize or even avoid the impacts of these natural disasters.

To officially be recognized as a WRN Ambassador, an organization must commit to:

- Promoting Weather-Ready Nation messages and themes to their stakeholders;
- Engaging with National Weather Service Duluth personnel on potential collaboration opportunities;
- Sharing their success stories of preparedness and resiliency;
- Serving as an example by educating employees on workplace preparedness.

Together, we will inform and empower communities, businesses, and people to make pre-event decisions that can be life-saving and prevent or limit devastating economic losses. We are a nation of many communities, and it is only through connected communities that we will achieve this goal.

To apply to become a WRN Ambassador, visit <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/amb-tou>

AMBASSADOR VISITS

This year, our office is planning on visiting with some of our Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors in person! If you are interested in scheduling an in-person meeting, please feel free to contact us at any or all of the email addresses below.

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Liaisons:

Linda Engebretson -

linda.engebretson@noaa.gov

Woodrow Unruh - woodrow.unruh@noaa.gov

Warning Coordination Meteorologist:

Joe Moore - joseph.moore@noaa.gov