



NORTHLAND WRN AMBASSADORS

April 2024

NWS Duluth, MN

Issue 12



Inside the Issue

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS!

Spotter Training Classes
Severe Weather Awareness
Safe Place Selfie!
More info, p.2

WHAT TO DO AFTER STORMS

What should you do after storms blow through your location?
Tips for safety on p. 3

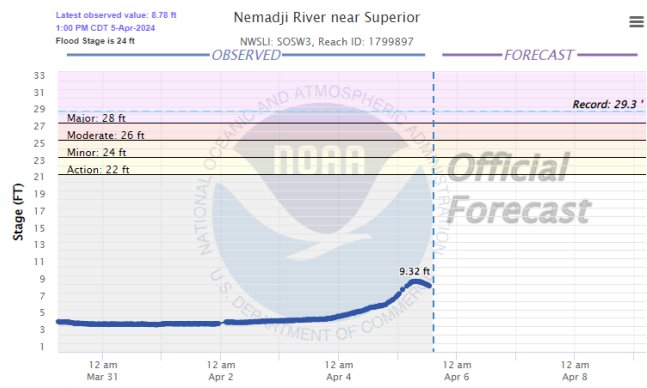
FIRE AND DROUGHT

It's been warm and dry, and we remain in drought. This increases our risk of wildfire
More info, p. 4

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL WATER PREDICTION SERVICE (NWPS)!

On March 27, 2024, the National Weather Service officially launched the new National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) website. The NWPS website replaced the Advanced Hydrologic Replacement Service (AHPS) website as the primary NWS water prediction information source, with access to all NWS river forecasts and National Water Model forecasts for approximately 3.4 million river reaches.

It is a greatly improved display of water resources information, including new tools to help partners and the American public make critical water decisions. For more detailed information, visit the [User's Guide to the National Water Prediction Service](#)





SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

Are you ready for severe weather? Each year, state HSEM in collaboration with the National Weather Service sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This year it was April 8-12. This week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. As Weather Ready Ambassadors, it's a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit. On Thursday April 11th, we held Tornado Drills. In many communities, outdoor warning sirens sounded a simulated tornado warning. We hope that you took advantage of this week and the drills to review what you will do when these sirens sound on any other day.

Visit our [Severe Weather Awareness page](#) for specific information about these severe weather safety topics, including factsheets, checklists, data and other resources.

Find more information at:

- [Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#)
- [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#)

DID YOU TAKE A SAFE PLACE SELFIE?

Safe Place Selfie day was April 3rd! Did you figure out your safe location when severe weather threatens and take a photo there? If so, we'd love to see it!

Feel free to share it on social media, or email it to us directly at nws.duluth@noaa.gov.



SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

- A mix of in person and virtual classes this year!
- Free class lasting about two hours
- Learn all about thunderstorms, including how to identify different parts of storms!
- Severe weather safety and preparedness tips
- Classes are appropriate for all ages - invite the whole family!
- 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 8th 6:30 PM CDT
Virtual
- April 10th at 6:00 PM
CDT *Spooner, WI*
- April 11th at 6:30 PM CDT
Duluth, MN
- April 17th 6:30 PM CDT
Butternut, WI
- April 19th at 3 and 6:30
PM *Brainerd, MN*
- April 24th at 6:00 PM
CDT *Two Harbors, MN*

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!

WHAT TO DO AFTER STORMS?

Once damaging thunderstorms move through your location, do you know what to do?

- Before you go outside, pay attention to weather forecasts and local safety and emergency management officials for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flooding.
- Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them to local power companies or emergency response immediately.
- Be aware of new safety issues. Watch for washed out roads, contaminated water or buildings, gas leaks, broken glass, damaged electrical wiring and slippery floors.
- Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected before entering.
- Do not enter your damaged home if:
 - You smell gas.
 - Floodwaters remain around the building.
 - Authorities have not declared it safe to enter.

What does the NWS do after Storms occur?

- Document, document, document!
- We collect and record any and all reports of hail, wind damage, flash flooding and possible tornados
 - If you have a report, please contact us ...
 - You can see these reports at:
<https://www.weather.gov/source/crh/lsr/map.html?sid=dlh>
- After a significant severe weather event (and most of the time if a tornado is suspected to have occurred), the staff at the NWS will coordinate to gain access to the damaged areas to document the impacts of the storm, estimate tornado or wind ratings, and understand how people were injured or killed.
- For all survey-related coordination after a storm, please contact NWS Duluth.
- Post-storm web pages and storm survey results will be shared on the NWS Duluth website as soon as feasible after major events.
 - To see an archive of past severe weather events and their post-storm web pages, visit:
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/events>





Visit

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire>

for useful wildfire safety information you can share!

WHERE TO FIND FIRE WEATHER INFORMATION

Our office in Duluth provides forecasts for a variety of fire-specific parameters, such as mixing height, Haines Index, and smoke dispersion. In addition, winds and relative humidity play a large role in determining if critical fire weather conditions are in place. To find these fire-specific forecasts, there are a few different places to find them:

NWS Duluth Fire Page:
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/fire>

Fire Weather Dashboard
(A tool that compiles fire weather forecast information for a specific location)
<https://www.weather.gov/dlh/fwd>

FIRE WEATHER

With little to no snowpack across the Northland, spring fire season is starting up already! The National Weather Service in Duluth forecasts a variety of fire weather parameters to assist land management agencies with fire control and suppression. The NWS also works closely with these land management agencies to determine when to issue Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings.

These watches and warnings help alert the public of critical fire weather conditions that would lead to rapid wildfire spread. These conditions are most likely to happen in the spring after the snow melts and before green-up occurs. A second fire season occurs in the fall, when the vegetation dries out before a snowpack develops.

For safety information on wildfires as well as links to educational resources, visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/wildfire>

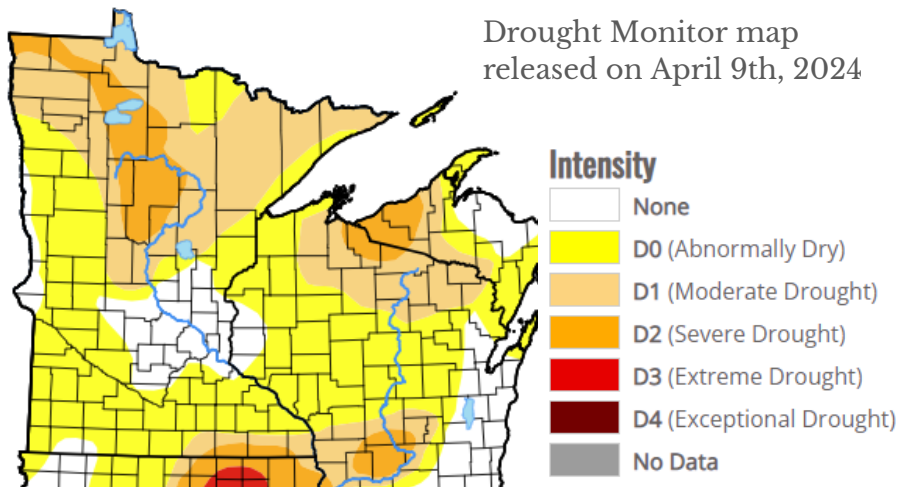
**Planning On Burning?
Know Your Limits.**

- Don't burn when windy or during low humidity
- Know local burn bans and regulations

 [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

One factor that land management agencies use to determine fire danger across the Northland is the presence and level of drought conditions. To check current drought conditions, visit:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



WEATHER READY NATION AMBASSADORS

Welcome new Ambassadors!

Carmody Irish Pub
Java Moose

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 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

