NWS Updates

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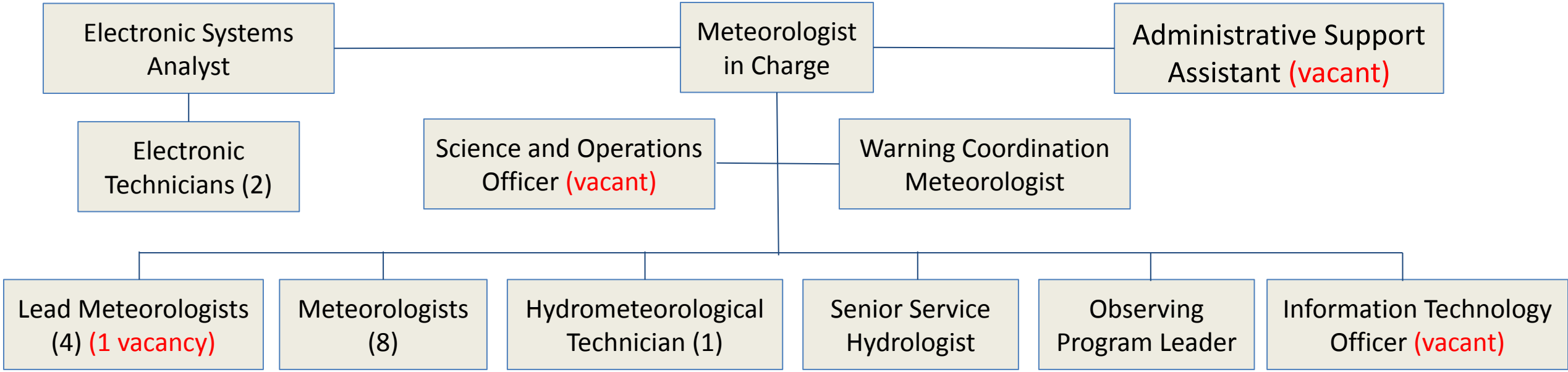
2023-2033 NWS Strategic Plan

- "Transforming the NWS into a more Nimble, Flexible, and Mobile agency providing indispensable mission services eye to eye with Decision Makers"
  - Goal 1: People as top priority - always!
  - Goal 2: Improve our infrastructure to be resilient and reliable
  - Goal 3: Transform our agency to meet current and future needs of society*
    - Specifically: 3.1 - Enable and empower NWS personnel to provide water, weather, and climate services to decision makers anytime and anywhere (eye to eye objective).

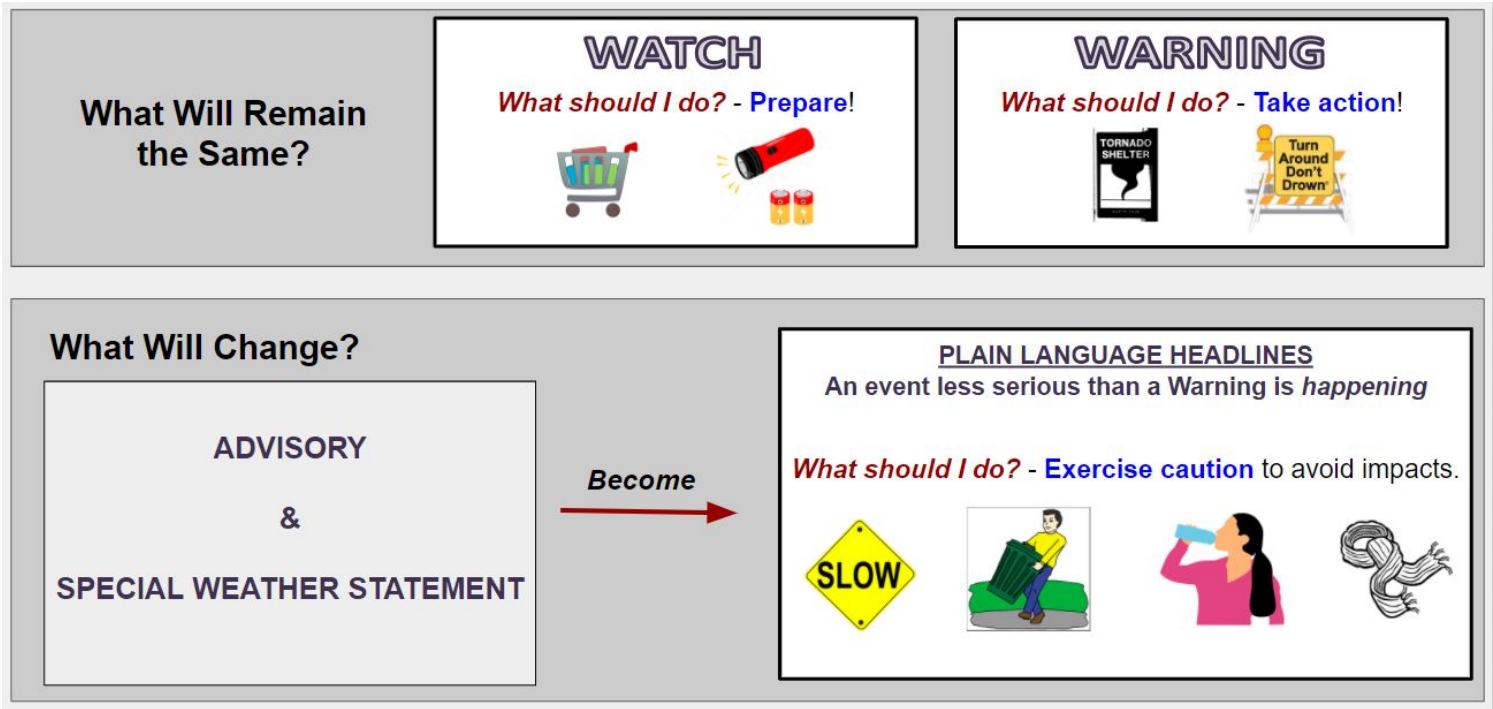
NWS GSP Personnel Status (24 full-time)



25% of our staff are within 5 years of retirement; 4 are already eligible

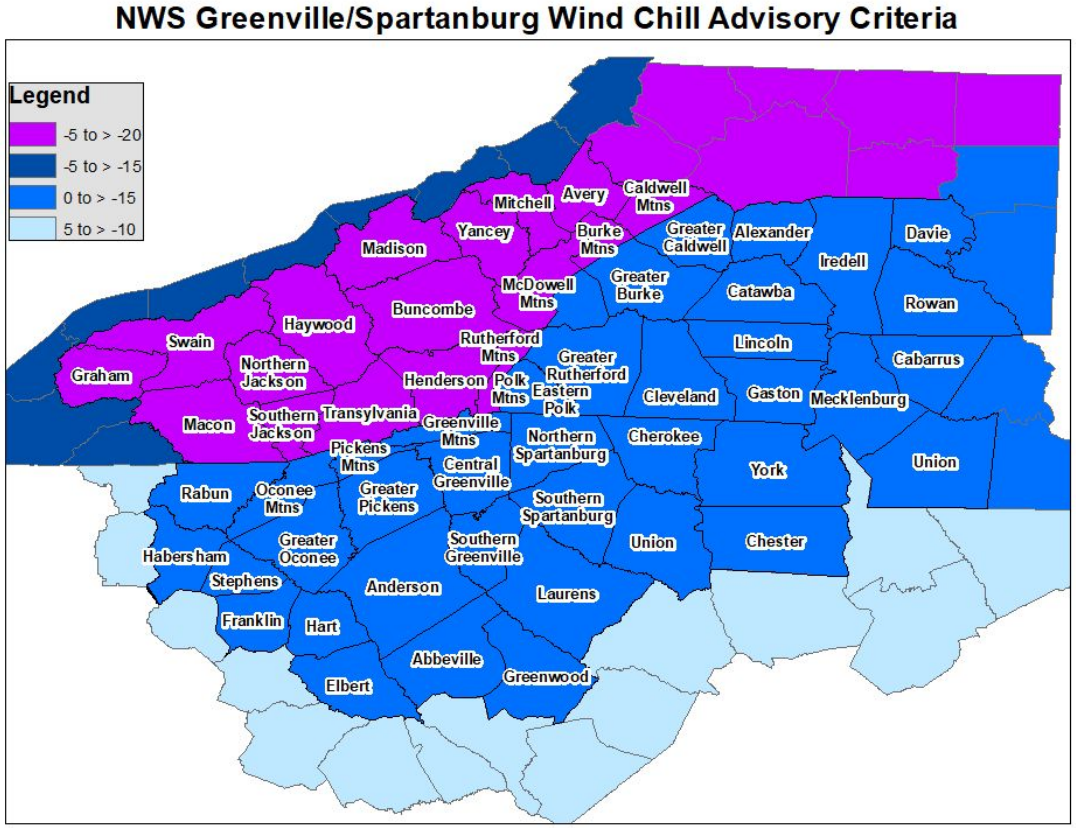
Hazard "Simplification" Update - Advisories and SPSs

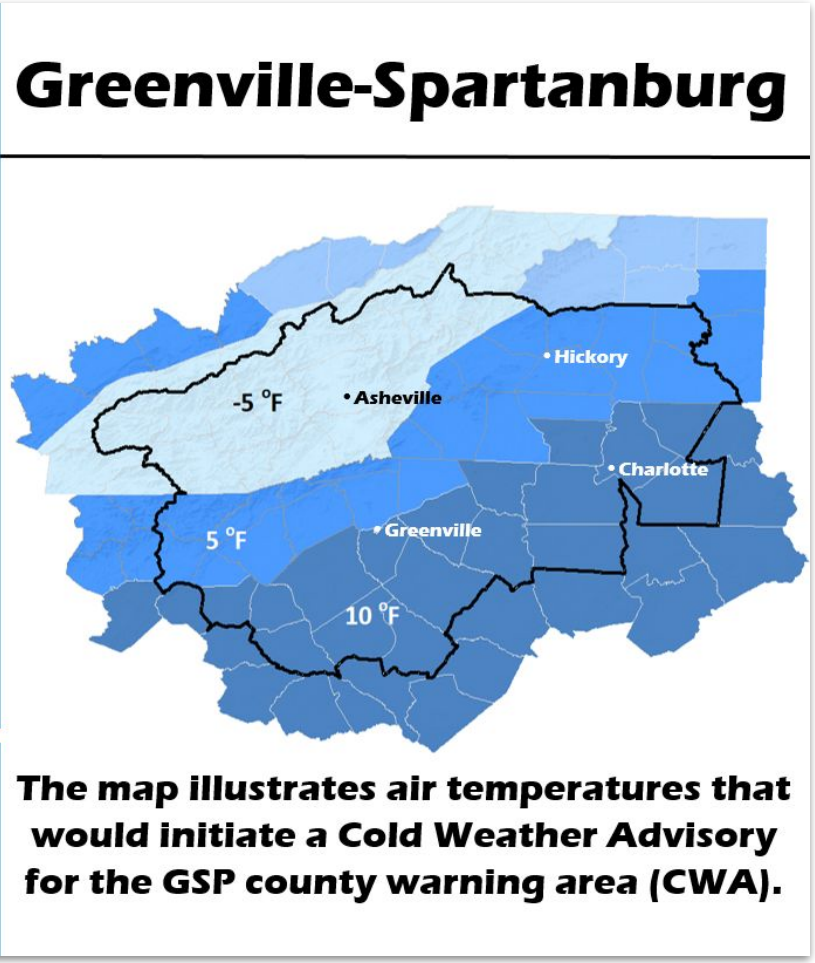
- Advisories and Special Weather Statements will be replaced by "Plain Language Headlines"
- Not before 2025
  - This was supposed to be 2024 but was delayed (software issues)



New Cold Weather Headlines - Winter 2024-2025

To replace Wind Chill Advisory/Warning





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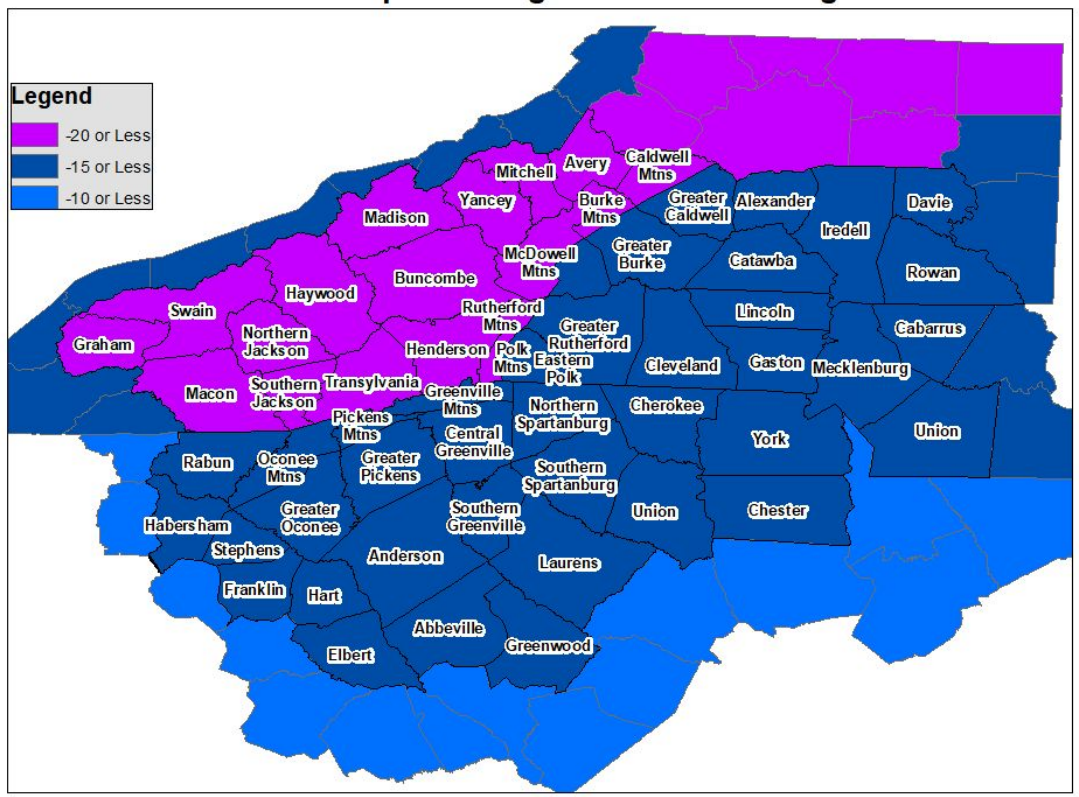
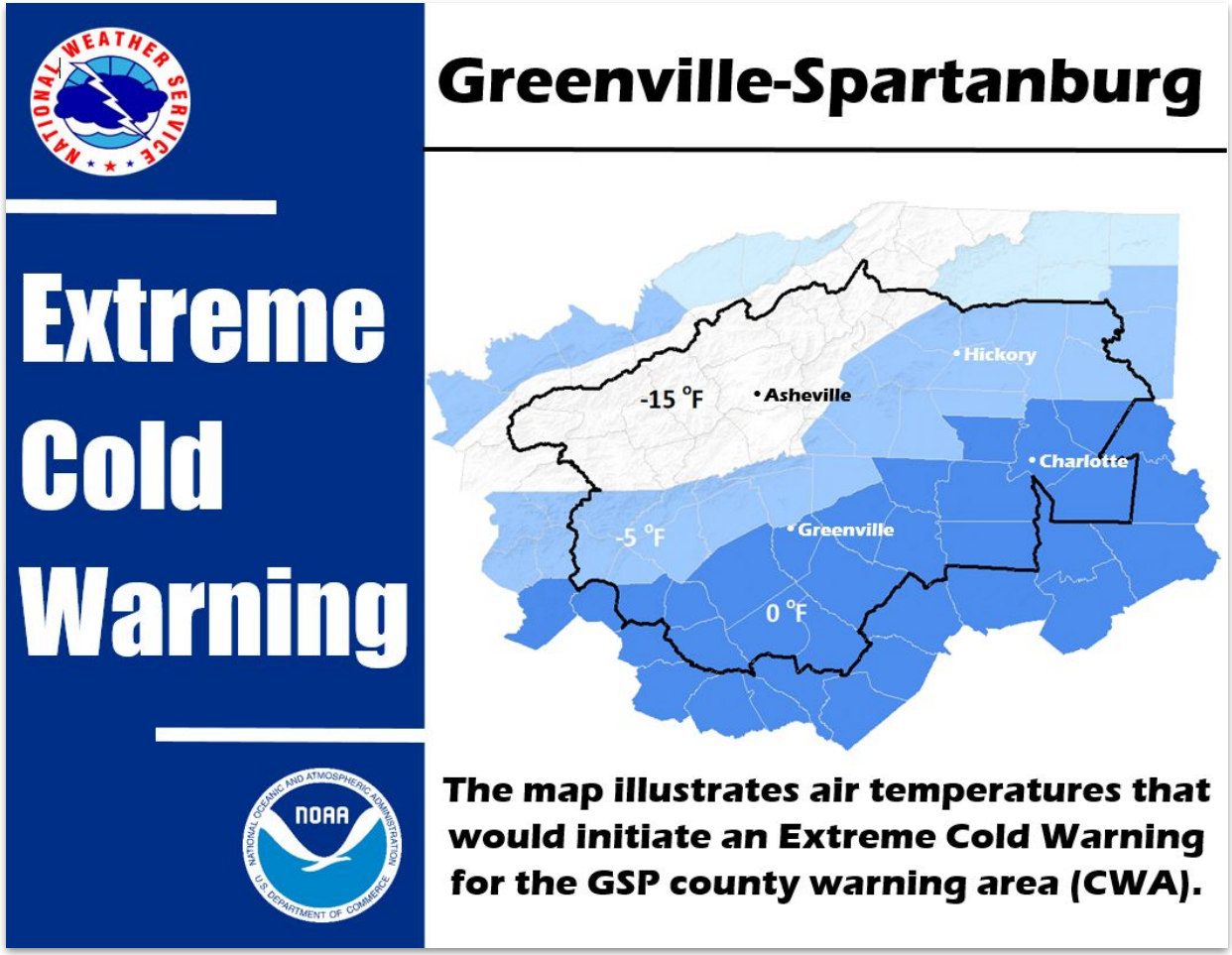
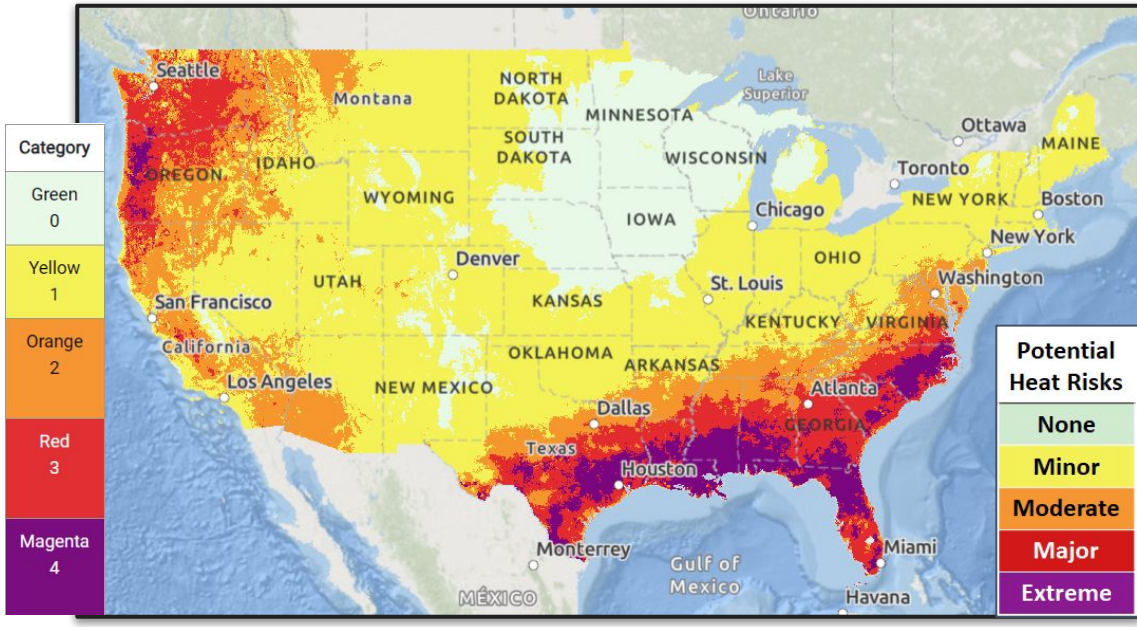




Experimental HeatRisk

- Heat is the #1 killer
- HeatRisk (*Experimental*) is a
  - Numeric color-based index
  - Serves as framework to use peer-reviewed heat-health science/data *consistently* across the country
  - Developed as a heat service (includes serving heat-vulnerable populations)
  - Unique local thresholds based on local climatology and CDC heat-health relationship



Experimental Heat Risk Categories

- None (0): Little to no risk from expected heat
- Minor (1):
  - Minor risk in “at risk” populations. Minor spike in heat illness. Non-zero, but very low, risk of mortality expected.
- Moderate (2):
  - Moderate risk of heat-related impacts, mostly in “at risk” populations without effective cooling and/or hydration.
  - Primarily heat-related illness. Non-zero, but low, risk of heat-related mortality expected
  - “Hot” during the day, “warm” at night to general population in normally cooler climates.
- Major (3):
  - Major risk of widespread heat-related impacts (including illness and mortality) for anyone without effective cooling and/or hydration.
  - Excessively warm day and nights (generally above 95th percentile)
- Extreme (4):
  - ***Rare long duration and/or extreme event***
  - Extreme risk of widespread heat-related impacts (including illness and mortality) for anyone without effective cooling and/or hydration
  - Temps above 95th percentile for 2+ days and/or near all-time records

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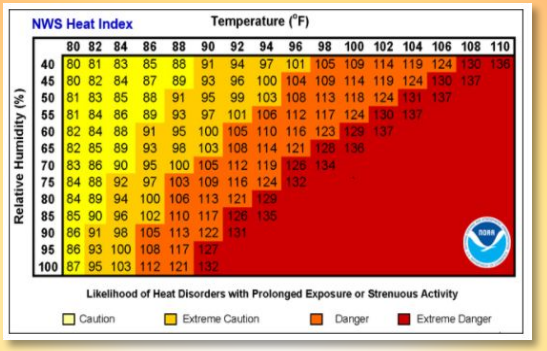
Primary difference between Extreme and Major is duration and/or maximum intensity of heat. Both are potentially VERY impactful.

Experimental HeatRisk Info

- Fully deployed by end of May 2024
- During "Experimental" phase, won't be supported 24/7
- This is another tool

Heat Index

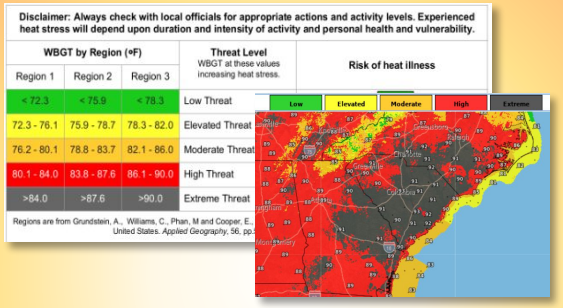


Heat stress in context for **general public.**

- Relatively simple: T + RH
- Light physical activity in shade

5'7" adult, 147.7 lbs, walking outside at 3.1 mph, wearing trousers and short sleeved shirt

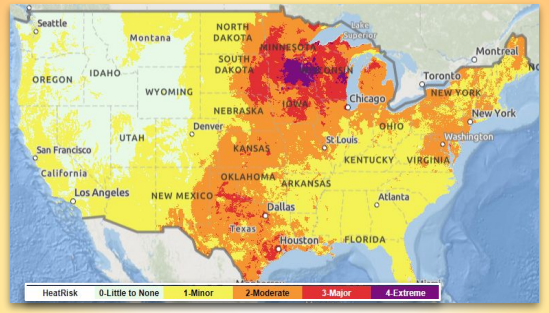
Wet Bulb Globe Temperature



Heat stress in context for **healthy, active outdoor** communities.

- More Complex: T + RH + wind + solar radiation
- High levels of outdoor physical activity

HeatRisk (experimental)



Risk of heat related impacts in **climatological context** with CDC heat-health information.

- Impacts-based: MaxT + MinT + CDC heat-health data
- Spectrum of heat-health impacts for *all* populations

NWSChat/Slack

- https://partnerservices.nws.noaa.gov/registration
- NWS HQ cracking down on registrants: CORE PARTNERS ONLY
  - Members of the EM community (EM-approved Ham radio net control operators)
  - Government partners
  - Water resources community
  - Real-time media (“social media-rologists” don’t count)
- Re-validation: every 6 months
  - Email request will come from nws.partnersupport@noaa.gov
  - 3 emails before your account is deactivated
- Contact me or Jake if you have questions or concerns

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- Now to the poll questions…

Now that we've been using it a while, what are your thoughts on the new NWSChat?

I love it!

0%

I like some of the new features, but I can take it or leave it.

0%

I prefer the legacy NWSChat.

0%

I don’t use it.

0%

We currently have 3 main public NWSChat channels: the main channel, datafeed (products), and stormreports (all LSRs). Some partners have requested that we add convective warnings (TORs, SVRs, and FFWs) to the main channel. Do you agree?

No, I think it would clutter the main channel

0%

Yes, I think it would be helpful

0%

I can go either way

0%

I'm not in NWSChat so I have no opinion

0%

What is some specific feedback you have about NWSChat?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Partial County Alerting (PCA)

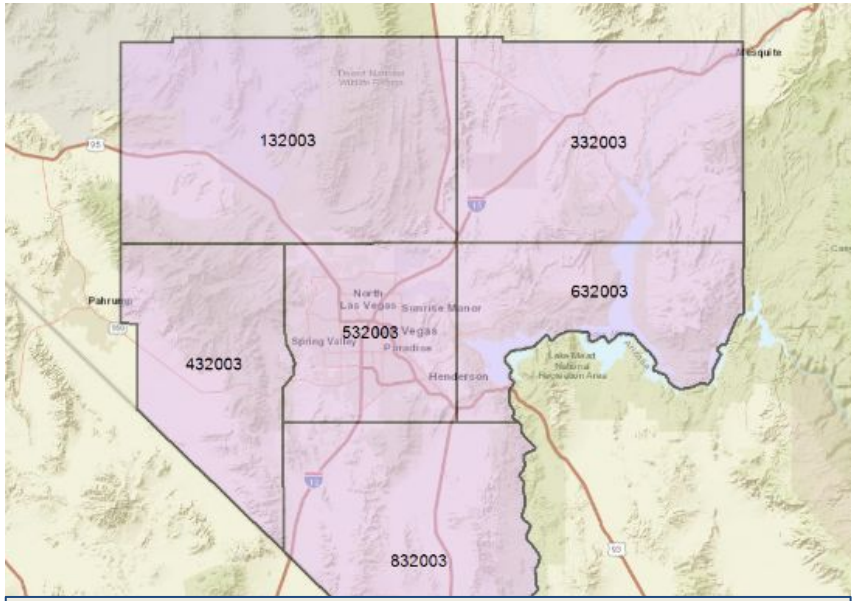
- NOAA Weather Radio is currently “county-based”
- PCA provides more geographically-precise weather alerts
- Fewer watches/warnings on NWR
  - Fewer programming interruptions on TV, radio, and cable systems that relay warnings via EAS
- https://www.weather.gov/pca/

How Does PCA Work?

Numbers represent geographical area of the county (1 is NW, 9 is SE, etc)

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

- SAME Code: PSSCCC
  - 6-digit location code
  - P(artial) S(tate) S(tate) C(ounty) C(ounty) C(ounty)
  - Spartanburg SSCCC: 045083
- PCA is *opt in*
  - For EAS, broadcasters (particularly cable systems) choose partitions to convey based on broadcast footprints and partitions they do/do not service
  - NWR listeners using Public Alert™ SAME receivers choose partitions they want to receive warnings
  - *If no choice is made, there is no service degradation*



Clark County, NV, has over 2.2 million residents. Metro Las Vegas (central zone) has over 2 million.
State code: 32, County code: 003.

Partial County Alerting (PCA)

- It's not all peaches and cream - NOT a quick process
  - Implemented once a year (spring)
  - Process must be started a year in advance
  - FCC Part 11 states *"Any subdivisions must be defined and agreed to by the local officials prior to use."*
    - Meetings with EMs, State Emergency Communications Committees (State EAS Plan update), broadcaster organizations, stakeholders, government officials
  - Proposed implementations preceded by public comment period
  - GIS work on NWS side once subdivisions are agreed upon
- **This isn't feasible for *every* county**
  - Large counties? Geographically complex counties?
  - Targeted population centers in otherwise rural counties?
- Want it in your county? Reach out to us (reach out to the county EM first)!

Quick-n-Dirty Impact-Based Warnings Review - WEA

TOR

- BASE
  - Rotation indicated
  - Possibly confirmed

- CONSIDERABLE
  - Confirmed
  - “Considerable” damage

- CATASTROPHIC
  - Confirmed, large, violent
  - Tornado EMERGENCY

Note: Our office has never issued a Tornado Emergency

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FFW

- BASE
  - Isolated prop impacts
  - Some emer. response

- CONSIDERABLE
  - Widespread response
  - Structural impacts

- CATASTROPHIC
  - Major/overwhelming impacts
  - Flash Flood EMERGENCY

Note: Our office has issued 10 Flash Flood Emergencies since 2014

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SVR

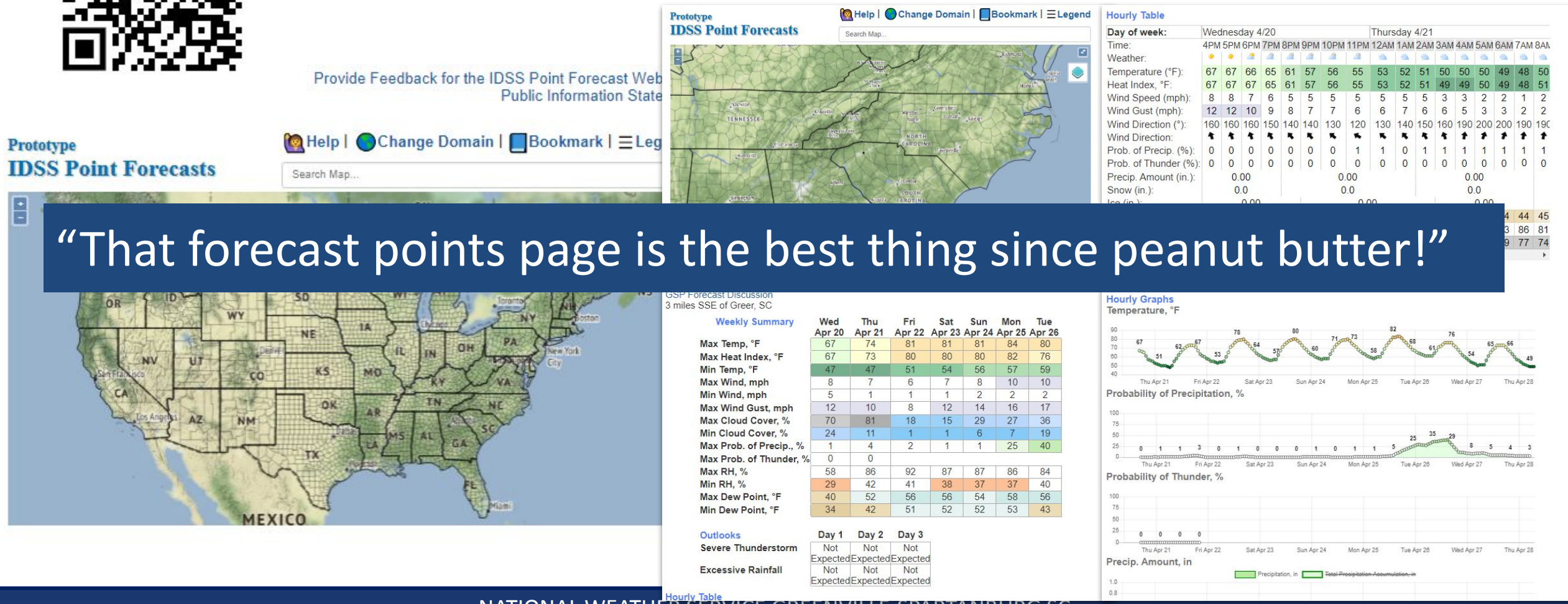
- BASE
  - Standard warning
  - 60mph
  - 1” hail (quarters)

- CONSIDERABLE
  - 70mph
  - 1.75” hail (golfballs)

- DESTRUCTIVE
  - 80mph (tornado-like)
  - 2.75” hail (baseballs)

IDSS Forecast Points Page

https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints



"That forecast points page is the best thing since peanut butter!"

Questions? Comments?

- Need immediate weather support or a weather briefing?
  - Call the office: 864-848-9973 (24/7)
- Have a question or concern about anything else (that's NOT immediate weather support)?
  - Email or call me: trisha.palmer@noaa.gov, 864-436-6799
- Let me know how we can help!