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Public Information Statement 22-26
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Marina Timofeyeva, Chief
 Climate Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments from May 2 through July 31, 2022 on the
 Addition of a "Rapid Onset Drought" Hazard Type as an
 Experimental Element Within the 8- to 14-Day Hazards Outlook
 (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska)

On May 2, 2022, the NWS will begin soliciting comments through July 31, 2022 on the addition of an experimental "Rapid Onset Drought" hazard type as part of the 8- to 14-Day Hazards Outlook (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska) when appropriate.

At times during the late spring, summer, and early fall, antecedent soil moisture conditions and forecasts of extended range temperature and precipitation (especially anticipated periods of extreme heat) can signal the potential for a rapid onset drought within just a couple of weeks. Drought development of this type can often lead to a relatively short period to prepare for and mitigate these impacts.

The addition of this hazard type in the Week 2 U.S. Hazards Outlook is to supplement the already operationally released U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook to better inform when drought conditions may develop within the month. The determination for when to depict potential rapidly developing drought conditions on the U.S. Hazards Outlook will be based on criteria from both observations and short, medium, extended, and subseasonal-range model forecast information.

More information about the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook and anticipated "Rapid Onset Drought" hazard type depiction is available in the Product Description Document at the following URL:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpRapidOnsetDrought_2022.pdf

The CPC issues the Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook at the following website, which also includes links to Geographic Information System (GIS) data files:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/threats.php>

The real-time issuance of a Rapid Onset Drought hazard is a forecast of opportunity. Please see the following sample to better understand how this hazard type will be issued:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/new-cpc-images-review/index-haf.html>

When included in the outlook, the "rapid drought onset" polygon will be included in the current "soils" ArcGIS shapefile.

Comments and feedback on the new experimental Rapid Onset Drought hazard type for are welcome through July 31, 2022 at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RapidOnsetDrought_Exp2022

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

Jon Gottschalck
Chief, Operational Prediction Branch
NWS - NCEP - Climate Prediction Center
College Park, MD
jon.gottschalck@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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