

Public Product	NWS Phoenix (PSR) Watch, Warning, and Advisory Criteria (updated 23 June 2025)	
Extreme Heat Warning (NPWPSR)	"Widespread Moderate to Major" or "Major" or "Extreme" risk of significant heat-related illness and health impacts are occurring or imminent based on the " HeatRisk " forecast product. More proactive issuances during large events, holidays, weekends, or abnormally hot periods during the off season (non summer months). <i>Note: "HeatRisk" considers how much above normal high and low temperatures are (based on climatology), the duration of unusual heat, and humidity (as represented by overnight low temperatures). Heat mortality data from the CDC was also directly included in the calculations of HeatRisk thresholds.</i>	HEAT
Extreme Heat Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-7 days in advance of when a "Widespread Moderate to Major" or "Major" or "Extreme" risk of heat-related illness is expected following the experimental " HeatRisk " forecast product. More proactive issuances during large events, holidays, weekends, or abnormally hot periods during the off season (non summer months).	
Heat Advisory (NPWPSR)	Zones 557 (Mazatal Mountains, 558 (Pinal/Superstition Mountains), and 563 (Southeast Gila County): "Moderate" risk of heat-related illness and health impacts following the experimental "HeatRisk" forecast product. <i>Note: Heat advisories are not issued for the rest of the CWA's lower elevation forecast zones.</i>	
Flash Flood Warning (FFWPSR)	Rapid and extreme flow of high water into a normally dry area, or a rapid water level rise in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level within six hours of heavy rainfall or a dam/levee failure is occurring or imminent.	FLOODING
Flood Watch (FFAPSR)	Normally issued 6-48 hours in advance of when hydrometeorological conditions capable of producing flash flooding is possible or when there is concern about a potential dam or levee failure that is not imminent.	
Flood Advisory (FLSPSR)	Elevated stream flow or ponding of water occurs within six hours of heavy rainfall; routine or nuisance-type flooding that does not warrant a flash flood warning (includes Urban and Small Stream Flood and Areal Flood Advisories).	
Flood Warning (FLWPSR)	Gradual rise in water that is expected to threaten life and/or property (typically for 6+ hours); also issued for river forecast points that are expected to rise above flood stage or is already at or above flood stage during rapid rises.	
Tornado Warning (TORPSR)	Radar indication and/or reliable reports of a tornado or developing tornado. Can be upgraded to a "considerable warning" if a tornado vortex signature (TVS) and/or tornado debris signature (TDS) is indicated on radar.	SEVERE T-STORM
Tornado Emergency (TORPSR)	Observed large and extremely dangerous tornado that is expected to impact a popluated metro area.	
Tornado Watch (WCNPSR)	Atmospheric conditions have created a significant risk for the development and intensification of severe thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes. Watches are normally issued hours in advance of the onset of severe weather.	
Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVRPSR)	Thunderstorm producing wind gusts of at least 50 knots (58 mph) and/or hail size of one inch (U.S. quarter-size) diameter or larger occurring or imminent (based on radar indication, satellite indication and/or reliable reports).	
Severe Thunderstorm Watch (WCNPSR)	Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms capable of producing large hail and/or damaging winds. Watches are normally issued hours in advance of the onset of severe weather.	
Special Weather Statement (SPSPSR)	Highlights the threat of a thunderstorm(s) or anticipated area of thunderstorm development. SPS products are reserved for thunderstorms that are sub-severe and are primarily accompanied by wind gusts of 40-55 mph and hail sizes ranging from pea (1/4in. diameter) to nickel (7/8in. diameter). An SPS can also be issued for an observed landspout.	
Dust Storm Warning (DSWPSR)	Dense blowing dust reducing visibilities to 1/4 mile or less is occurring or imminent. <i>Note: These polygon-based warnings are for localized, short-duration events typically lasting for 90 minutes or less.</i>	DUST
Dust Advisory (NPWPSR)	Blowing dust reducing visibilities to 1 mile or less, but greater than 1/4 mile, is occurring or imminent. <i>Note: These polygon-based advisories are for localized, short-duration events typically lasting for 90 minutes or less.</i>	
Blowing Dust Warning (NPWPSR)	Widespread dense blowing dust reducing visibilities to 1/4 mile or less is occurring or imminent. <i>Note: These zone-based warnings are for widespread, long-duration events typically lasting for 90 minutes or more.</i>	
Blowing Dust Advisory (NPWPSR)	Widespread blowing dust reducing visibilities to 1 mile or less, but greater than 1/4 mile, is occurring or imminent. <i>Note: These zone-based advisories are for widespread, long-duration events typically lasting for 90 minutes or more.</i>	
High Wind Warning (NPWPSR)	Sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater and/or any non-convective (synoptic) wind gusts of 58 mph or greater are occurring or imminent.	WIND
High Wind Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 12-48 hours in advance of when sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater and/or any non-convective (synoptic) wind gusts of 58 mph or greater are expected.	
Wind Advisory (NPWPSR)	Sustained wind speeds of 30-39 mph and/or any non-convective wind gusts of 40-57 mph are occurring or imminent.	
Red Flag Warning (RFWPSR)	Critical fire weather conditions are occurring or imminent due to dry fuels and strong winds (determined by the geographical criteria given below) combined with relative humidities of 15% or lower: Fire Weather Zones 131, 132, 13, 221 (Arizona and Lower Colorado River Valley): "High", "Very High", or "Extreme" NFDRS Fire Danger with 20 ft. winds (RAWS) sustained at 20 mph or greater, or gusting to 35 mph or greater and/or 33 ft. winds (ASOS/AWOS) sustained at 22 knots (25 mph) or greater, or gusting to 30 knots (35 mph) or greater <i>lasting for 3+ hours (can be non-consecutive).</i> Fire Weather Zones 230 and 232 (SE California excluding the Lower Colorado River Valley): "Very Dry" or "High Risk" Significant Fire Potential with 20 foot winds (RAWS) gusting to 35 mph or greater (not a sustained wind criterion) and/or 33 foot winds (ASOS/AWOS) gusting to 30 knots (35 mph) or greater <i>lasting for 6+ hours (can be non-consecutive),</i> or widespread dry lightning.	FIRE WEATHER
Fire Weather Watch (RFWPSR)	Normally issued 12-72 hours in advance of when there is a high potential of critical fire weather conditions due to dry fuels, strong winds, and low relative humidity.	
Blizzard Warning (WSWPSR)	Same criteria as the Winter Storm Warning below with the addition of 35+ mph wind gusts and <1/4 mi. visibility for at least 3 consecutive hours.	WINTER WEATHER
Winter Storm Warning (WSWPSR)	Winter storm conditions (including heavy snow, sleet, ice, and/or blowing snow) that pose a threat to life and/or property are occurring or imminent. Warnings for heavy snow during a 24 hour period are issued based on elevation as follows: Below 5000 feet: Desert Floor (Phoenix & Yuma): 1" , Lower Deserts (Phoenix suburbs and surrounding foothills): 2" , High Deserts (Globe, Tonto Basin, San Carlos): 3" , Western High Terrain (JTNP, New River): 3" , Eastern High Terrain (Matatzals, Superstitions, SE Gila County): 4" Any elevations above 5000 feet: 8"	
Winter Weather Advisory (WSWPSR)	An impactful winter weather event is occurring or imminent including any freezing rain or drizzle and/or snow or blowing snow that is causing visibilities of 1/4 mile or less. Advisories for snow are issued based on elevation as follows: Below 5000 feet: Desert Floor (Phoenix & Yuma): 0.1", Lower Deserts (Phoenix suburbs and surrounding foothills): 1", High Deserts (Globe, Tonto Basin, San Carlos): 2", Western High Terrain (JTNP, New River): 2", Eastern High Terrain (Matatzals, Superstitions, SE Gila County): 3" Any elevations above 5000 feet: 4"	
Winter Storm Watch (WSWPSR)	Normally issued 12-96 hours in advance of impactful winter weather conditions (including heavy snow, sleet, ice, and/or blowing snow) that may pose a significant threat to life and property.	
Freeze Warning (NPWPSR)	Temperatures of 32F or lower are occurring or imminent for the first time of the winter season or <u>any occurrence in major population areas</u> . <i>Note: Typically 'one and done' for the high terrain zones, but can be reissued after first verifying freeze if widespread impacts are possible.</i>	
Freeze Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-5 days ahead of when temperatures of 32F or lower are expected for the first time of the winter season (any occurrence in major population areas or if widespread impacts are possible).	
Extreme Cold Warning (NPWPSR)	Extremely dangerous or life threatning cold conditions or wind chill values are expected or occurring. Warning criteria for temperatures or wind chills based on elevation as follows: High terrain (Mazatzals, SE Gila County including Globe and San Carlos): 5F or colder, Foothills: (New River, Tonto Basin, Superior, Superstitions, Western JTNP): 15F or colder, Lower Deserts: 20F or colder.	
Cold Weather Advisory (NPWPSR)	Temperatures or wind chills are expected to be low enough to pose a risk of hypothermia or frostbite if precautions aren't taken. Warning criteria for temperatures or wind chills based on elevation as follows: High terrain (Mazatzals, SE Gila County including Globe and San Carlos): 15F or colder, Foothills: (New River, Tonto Basin, Superior, Superstitions, Western JTNP): 25F or colder, Lower Deserts: 30F or colder.	
Extreme Cold Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-5 days ahead of when dangerous or life threatning cold conditions or wind chill values are possible.	
Dense Fog Advisory (NPWPSR)	Widespread or localized (patchy) fog reducing visibilities to 1/4 mile or less is occurring or imminent.	OTHER
Air Quality Alert (AQAPSR)	Triggered when the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issues a high pollution advisory due to ozone or coarse or fine particles. This product is most frequently issued for Maricopa, Pinal, and Yuma Counties.	