

Public Product

NWS Phoenix (PSR) Watch, Warning, and Advisory Criteria (updated 23 December 2018)

Excessive Heat Warning (NPWPSR)	"High" (dangerous) or "Very High" (deadly) risk of significant heat-related illness and health impacts are occurring or imminent based on the "HeatRisk" forecast product (shown at https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/heatrisk/?wfo=psr). <i>Note: "HeatRisk" considers how much above normal high and low temperatures are (using a 1985-2014 climatology), the duration of unusual heat, and humidity (as represented by overnight low temperatures).</i>	<u>HEAT</u>
Excessive Heat Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-7 days in advance of when a "high" or "very high" risk of heat-related illness is expected following the experimental "HeatRisk" forecast product.	
Heat Advisory (NPWPSR)	Zones 557 (Mazatal Mountains, 558 (Pinal/Superstition Mountains), and 563 (Southeast Gila County): "Moderate" (significant) 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.	<u>FLOODING</u>
Flash 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.	
Hydrologic Statement (RVSPSR)	Provides a summary of river stage forecasts out to five days for rivers that will not reach flood stage or have fallen below flood stage; also used to disseminate miscellaneous information like dam releases.	
Tornado Warning (TORPSR)	Radar indication and/or reliable reports of a tornado or developing tornado.	<u>SEVERE T-STORM</u>
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).	
Special Weather Statement (SPSPSR)	Highlights the threat of a thunderstorm that is just below severe criteria.	
Dust Storm Warning (DSWPSR)	Localized 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>	<u>DUST</u>
Dust Advisory (NPWPSR)	Localized 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 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 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 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)	Extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior is occurring or imminent due to critically 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 (33-ft) winds sustained at 20+ mph (25+ mph) <i>or</i> gusts of 35+ mph lasting for 3+ hours. Fire Weather Zones 230 and 232 (SE California excluding the Lower Colorado River Valley): "Very Dry" or "High Risk" Significant Fire Potential with 20-ft or 33-ft wind gusts of 35+ mph lasting for 6+ hours (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 extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior.	
Winter Storm Warning (WSWPSR)	Winter weather conditions (including heavy snow, sleet, ice, and/or blowing snow) that pose a significant threat to life and/or property are occurring or imminent. Warnings for heavy snow are issued based on elevation as follows: Below 5000 feet: 2-4 inches of snow in 12 hours or 4+ inches in 24 hours 5000-7000 feet: 6-10" in 12 hours or 10+" in 24 hours (4-6"/12 hours or 6+ "/24 hours for early or late season event) Above 7000 feet: 8-12" in 12 hours or 12+" in 24 hours (4-6"/12 hours or 6+ "/24 hours for early or late season event)	WINTER WEATHER
Winter Weather Advisory (WSWPSR)	An impactful winter weather event is occurring or imminent including any freezing rain or drizzle, blowing snow that is causing visibilities of 1/4 mile or less, or snow. Advisories for snow are issued based on elevation as follows: Below 5000 feet: Any snow accumulation on desert floor; 1" in 12 hours or 2-3+" in 24 hours elsewhere 5000-7000 feet: 3-5" in 12 hours or 6-9+" in 24 hours (2-3"/12 hours or 4-5+ "/24 hours for early or late season event) Above 7000 feet: 4-7" in 12 hours or 8-11+" in 24 hours (2-3"/12 hours or 4-5+ "/24 hours for early or late season event)	
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 32°F or lower are occurring or imminent for the first time of the winter season and after "significant warm spells" (typically 3+ weeks of unseasonably warm weather) for lower elevations and major population areas.	
Freeze Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-5 days in advance of when temperatures of 32°F or lower are expected for the first time of the winter season (or after a significant warm spell for lower elevations and major population areas).	
Hard Freeze Warning (NPWPSR)	Temperatures of 28°F or lower are occurring or imminent at any time for major population areas or the first time of the winter season (or after significant warm spells) at lower elevations. Note: Not issued for higher elevation zones.	
Hard Freeze Watch (NPWPSR)	Normally issued 2-5 days in advance of when temperatures of 28°F or lower are expected at any time for the major population areas or after significant warm spells for lower elevations. Note: Not issued for higher elevation zones.	
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.	