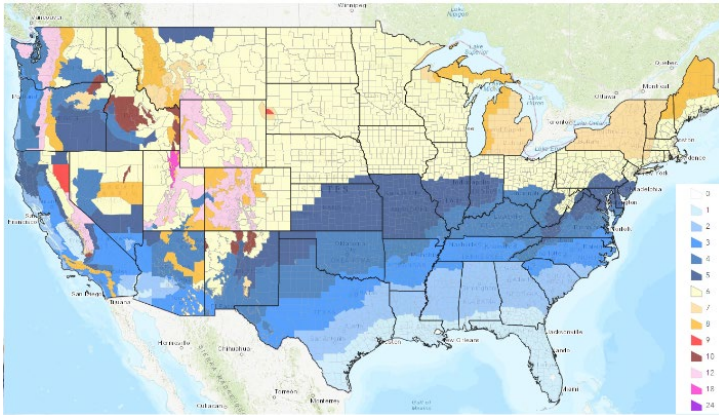


## New NWS Winter Storm Warning Heavy Snow Criteria Coming This Winter

By: The National Winter Program Staff



The latest Winter Storm Warning snow criteria map (as of this publication) applies to a winter storm event (up to 48 hours long) rather than the previous 12-hour or 24-hour timing criteria.

The National Weather Service (NWS) National Winter Program is announcing new Winter Storm Warning (WSW) criteria for Heavy Snow, which will be used by all Contiguous United States Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) beginning this winter season.

The primary reason for changing the NWS snow criteria is to increase consistency among neighboring WFOs. Greater consistency will help promote more collaborative and streamlined public and partner messaging with respect to winter storms. In addition, higher standards of the scientific method have been used as the underlying basis of the new criteria. Finally, the criteria now

The snowfall criteria map as of the printing of this article in the image below and at [www.weather.gov/snow-criteria](http://www.weather.gov/snow-criteria). This map will be updated as future changes are made, no less frequent than on an annual basis.

The Winter Program would especially like to thank the many local partners that assisted in development of this modernized heavy snowfall criteria.

## NOAA's U.S. Winter Outlook Available Online

By: Monica Parker, Aware Editor

As we approach the year's end, don't forget to check the [U.S. Winter Outlook](#)! This seasonal publication details the U.S. temperature and precipitation outlooks for this coming winter (December 2023 through February 2024), as well as an outlook for the ongoing drought across the U.S. and the climate factors that influence it.

In addition to the seasonal outlook, the Winter Outlook also includes updates on NOAA's winter forecasting tools, such as the Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index, the Weather Prediction Center's Key Messages, and the Impact-Based Warning Tags for Snow Squall Warnings. Links to these forecasting tools, as well as more detailed information on NOAA's seasonal outlooks, are included in the publication to help readers stay informed and prepared for this year's winter

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## WFO Tampa Bay Participates in Disaster Preparedness Education for Nurses

By: Daniel Noah, WCM at Tampa Bay

On September 20, the Providence Family Life Center hosted a disaster preparedness course for nurses. This training featured multiple speakers to prepare nurses to assist their homeless and financially challenged clients to prepare for hazardous weather, including hurricanes.

Dan Noah, WCM at WFO Tampa Bay, discussed the hurricane history of the Fort Myers area, including the impacts from 2022 Major Hurricane Ian, and provided a hurricane season forecast for the rest of the year.

Britton Holdaway and Debbie Quimby from Lee County Emergency Management explained how the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operates and discussed EOC activations. They also brought applications for Special Needs Shelters and preparedness guides for distribution.

Antoinette Kruse, the CEO of the Providence Family Life Center, concluded the event by giving an overview of traumatic stress, PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), and grief.

The topics of this training event aimed to equip nurses with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare their homeless and financially challenged clients to prepare for hazardous weather situations, such as hurricanes. This training will be provided to Lee County nurses several more times during the next year so that this underserved demographic will be ready for the next storm.



From left to right: Daniel Noah of NWS Tampa Bay, Antoinette Krusek of the Providence Family Life Center, and Debbie Qumby and Britton Holdaway from Lee County Emergency Management.

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## NWS Central Illinois Attends Midwest Student Conference on Atmospheric Research

By: NWS Staff



Meteorology students from universities across the Midwest with NWS Central Illinois meteorologists. Meteorologists from right to left: Andy Taylor (back), John Bumgardner (front), and Nicole Albano.

On September 30, NWS Central Illinois attended a portion of the Midwest Student Conference on Atmospheric Research (MSCAR) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. SOO **Andy Taylor** and Meteorologists **Nicole Albano** and **John Bumgardner** were all present from the NWS to field questions at the conference's career fair as well as lead a severe weather forecasting workshop.

The workshop put the students in the shoes of an NWS Central Illinois meteorologist for a "few days," walking them through scenarios similar to what the office may face leading up to a severe weather event. At the onset of the workshop, the students were told a severe weather event was looming in the coming days, which also coincided with a vulnerable outdoor DSS event in Taylorville, IL.

The students were introduced to ways to communicate weather information to decision makers using the research from [Ripberger et al. \(2020\)](#). They were then shown various forecast data in the days leading up to and the day of the severe weather event, with DSS-themed questions from an emergency manager's perspective injected throughout. Hands-on activities were also incorporated, allowing the students to create an SPC-style outlook and analyze a surface map.

During the wrap up, the severe weather event was revealed, which happened to be the recent [August 6, 2023, long-tracked tornado of Sangamon/Christian counties \(IL\)](#).

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## NWS Dodge City Promotes Weather Safety for the Next Generation within the Agricultural Community

By: NWS Staff



*NWS Meteorologist Bill Turner answering a question on tornado safety.*

WFO Dodge City meteorologist **Bill Turner** and Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Samantha Brown** attended the [Progressive Agriculture Safety Day](#) held at the Clark County Fairgrounds on October 5 in Ashland, Kansas. Over 90 Clark County Public School students, 3rd through 5th grade, were present.

Students were able to talk with professionals in private and government sectors to learn about agriculture safety. Each grade went through eight presentations with hands-on activities highlighting safety in agriculture. The NWS Dodge City booth included a slideshow on weather safety, a balloon and radiosonde, cloud charts in English and Spanish, NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio, and a CoCoRaHS rain gauge. Bill and Samantha talked about weather safety and how NWS Dodge City runs on a daily basis.

As one of the largest rural safety and health education programs for children in North America, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day provides education, training, and resources to make farm, ranch, and rural life safer and healthier for all children and their communities. Since the inception of the program in 1995, more than 1.9 million individuals have been reached in 45 states, including southwest Kansas.

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## NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard Meets with Media Partners in September and October

By: NWS Staff

Several members of the NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard (LOX) staff are completing tours to all of the major television stations in the Los Angeles, California, area after years of virtual-only visits. The media market in LA is the second largest in the nation, only behind New York City. The partnerships with the networks and local LA markets are as strong as ever, and the weather teams from each station have appreciated the access to WFO meteorologists via phone, email, and NWChat.

WCM **Eric Boldt**, along with Lead Meteorologist **David Gomberg** and Meteorologist **Lisa Phillips**, spearheaded the media tours held at NBC4/Telemundo, FOX11, and CBS/KCAL, with two more to go at ABC7 and KTLA in October. The media partners enjoyed seeing familiar WFO faces back in their studios while learning about specific weather topics for this time of the year. David Gomberg led the groups in discussions on the LOX fire weather program, as October is the peak of Santa Ana wind season in southern California. Lisa Phillips provided a recap of forecasts and impacts related to Tropical Storm Hilary from last August, which was the most significant tropical cyclone to reach the area since 1939. Eric Boldt completed the presentations with an explanation of the coming strong El Niño and what that could mean for the region this upcoming winter.



*KCBS/KCAL weather team with the NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard staff.*

The staff at NWS Los Angeles have taken the opportunity to sign up their media partners for Slack in anticipation of a potentially busy winter season ahead. Partners at Telemundo will be excited to know that the NWS is working on a Spanish translation website and looking forward to testing its new capability in the LA area.

The tours were a fun experience for newer LOX staff members who were visiting the media studios for the first time, meeting the weather teams, and practicing their weather delivery in front of the green screens.



*NBC4 weather person, David Biggar (right), with NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard Meteorologists David Gomberg and Lisa Phillips.*



## Aware

NOAA's National Weather Service, Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

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