



#SafePlaceSelfie Day Is April 3rd!

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

Knowing your “safe place” is one of the most essential preparedness activities to save your life from extreme weather. On April 3, post your [#SafePlaceSelfie](#) and encourage others to:

- Know the hazards in your area
- Identify your “safe place” and take a selfie
- Post on social media using the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie



Getting individuals, businesses, and WRN Ambassadors to post via social media creates excitement about overall preparedness across communities in a fun, free, and educational way.

The focus is not just on various hazards such as tornadoes and severe weather, but also on beach safety (rip currents), wildfires, flooding, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Think about the hazards common in your area – and don’t just think about your home, but also your workplace, frequent locations such as gyms and shops, as well as outdoor locations such as parks, athletic fields, golf courses or your favorite fishing spot.

WFO Las Vegas Provides Public Safety and Aviation Partners Support for Super Bowl LVIII

By: NWS Staff

On February 11, National Football League (NFL) fans gathered in the “*What happens here, only happens here*” city for the inaugural Super Bowl. This was the first-ever debut of the nation’s largest football game in Las Vegas, and it was estimated to have attracted some 300 to 400 thousand spectators and fans through the week of Super Bowl festivities. The Western Region of the National Weather Service (NWS) is no stranger to the Super Bowl, as it has been held in several southwestern U.S. cities over the last decade. However, each host city offers its own set of unique challenges and a variety of partners who rely heavily on NWS products, services, and direct support to ensure public safety is maintained.

The NWS office in Las Vegas was ready for action. On the heels of the first ever Formula 1 Grand Prix on the Las Vegas strip in November 2023, NWS meteorologists were eager to work closely again with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), Las Vegas Fire Department, and other public safety entities to see that weather impacts could be mitigated as much as possible.

This actually proved to be quite a challenge, as a powerful west coast storm system brought active and unsettled weather for several days at the start of Super Bowl week. Despite the perception that winter weather is not a common threat in the Desert Southwest, some of the higher elevation areas surrounding Las Vegas can experience dangerous winter storm conditions. This was especially true in the Spring

Mountains and Mount Charleston, within an hour drive from the Las Vegas Strip, and at elevations well above 5000 feet. Repeat rounds of heavy snow early in the week resulted in an avalanche at the popular Lee Canyon Ski Resort. Thankfully all who were trapped in the avalanche were found unharmed. Snow wasn't the only issue, however, as a powerful jet stream and low ceilings proved difficult for aviation interests for those arriving ahead of the big game. These challenging conditions required a robust coordination framework, not only within the city of Las Vegas itself, but also in outlying areas and with regional entities residing outside of the city limits.



*NWS Western Region Regional Response and Preparedness Specialist (RRPS) **Matt Solum** discusses deployment details with NWS Las Vegas meteorologist **Andy Gorelow***

NWS Las Vegas meteorologists collaborated with the Climate Prediction Center as much as 10-14 days before the big event, gathering critical long-range forecast information related to precipitation and temperature probabilities. This provided key points and messages relatable even at long ranges for key partners involved in Super Bowl safety planning and execution. Additionally, given the massive influx of aviation interests with those arriving at Harry Reid International Airport and other surrounding terminals, it was critical to work with the Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) in Palmdale, California. This was largely a continuation of the work done for Formula 1, whereby the CWSU served as a point of coordination to Federal Aviation Administration and Aviation Weather Center personnel, and produced threat matrices and gate forecasts used in briefings.

NWS Las Vegas meteorologists worked with partners to deploy onsite to no less than five locations, including the Super Bowl Command Center, LVMPD Headquarters, and Harry Reid TRACON for aviation purposes. This was only made possible due to individuals from neighboring offices (WFO Phoenix, WFO Flagstaff, and WFO Hanford) providing mutual aid. With these individuals, NWS Las Vegas meteorologists were able to be more mobile and flexible, providing “eye-to-eye” direct support for some 200 hours through Super Bowl week. There is no way this would have been possible without these individuals coming in to enable NWS Las Vegas resources to deploy. Western Region Headquarters was also tremendously helpful, most notably the Western Region Regional Operations Center, **Scott Carpenter**, and **Matt Solum**, who were integral in the planning and support efforts in the months and weeks leading up to the big event.

Whenever large events bring increasing vulnerability to hazardous weather, the NWS rises to the occasion, providing consultation and life-saving weather information to key partners involved in safety and security. NWS Las Vegas was proud to support core partners during the first-ever Super Bowl in this vibrant city, but as the saying goes, we could only pull it off “with a little help from our friends”. Thank you to all who were instrumental in helping us pull this off!

NWS Louisville Hosts Deaf and Hard of Hearing SKYWARN Training

By: NWS Staff

WFO Louisville Forecaster **Samantha Michlowitz**, assisted by Lead Forecaster **Ron Steve**, held an online deaf and hard of hearing accessible SKYWARN Spotter training on February 26.

After developing a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador relationship with the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Samantha has worked to increase resources and accessibility. One of these avenues was to bring accessible SKYWARN Spotter Training to this community.

Samantha was able to offer this event thanks to NWS's great opportunity to request American Sign Language interpreters and live closed captioning through a government contract at no cost to the forecast office. This event was well advertised through the WFO Louisville social media accounts and through advertisement distribution by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Samantha and Ron had 90 people in attendance, of which 12-15 were deaf or hard of hearing. The audience was interactive, gave great feedback, and expressed interest in attending the advanced Spotter Training class, which will be held in April.

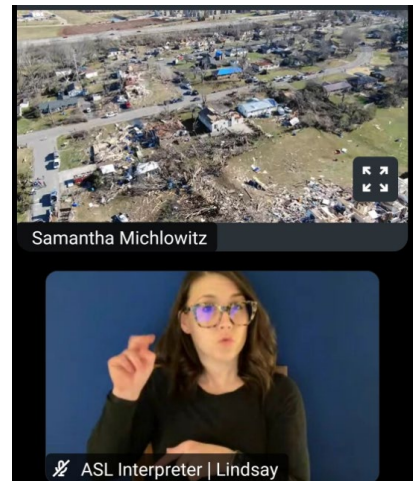


Image from the SKYWARN Spotter Training webinar featuring American Sign Language Interpreter Lindsay Nickels.

Samantha and WFO Louisville are elated to connect with this underserved population. In the future, her hope is to continue this relationship and bring more accessible resources to the Kentucky Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

WFO Boston Provides Outreach to Inner City Students

By: NWS Staff

WFO Boston SOO **Joe Dellicarpini** recently attended the High School Marine Science Symposium at Northeastern University in Boston. This annual event draws about 200 high school students from the Boston area who have an interest in marine science and other STEM fields, including many from inner city schools who otherwise would not have the opportunity to learn about these careers.

Joe staffed a table to show how climate change is having an effect on the frequency of coastal flooding in Boston using inundation maps from the NWS Boston website that show historical tide levels, recent events, and how this information is communicated to core partners such as the Boston Office of Emergency Management. He also had a short presentation about the NWS and about becoming a meteorologist, which ended up being the most popular part of his talk. Of the 200 students who walked through the exhibits over three sessions, about two dozen stopped by to talk specifically about NWS careers. Many of these students were women, minorities, and those from urban school districts. The



WFO Boston SOO Joe Dellicarpini speaks with inner city high school students about NWS careers.

students showed strong interest in meteorology, and several of them were interested in scheduling job shadows at the WFO Boston office to learn more.

Additionally, there was the opportunity to discuss potential collaborative relationships with other organizations in the Boston area. One in particular, [The American City Coalition](#), works with residents in lower income areas of Roxbury and Dorchester, MA, to increase education, access, and utilization of Boston's waterfront for recreation, culture, and employment.

Attending this event was part of a targeted effort by WFO Boston to reach out to typically underserved communities in the office's County Warning Area. The office is planning to schedule other outreach activities through the spring and summer.



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