

About the WPC Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

The Day 3-7 United States Hazards Outlook product depicts possible impending weather-related hazards during the medium range period. The hazard areas are based off of products issued from the Weather Prediction Center (WPC), the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), along with medium range numerical model guidance. The intended audience for this product includes emergency managers, weather forecasters, planners and managers in the public and private sectors, as well as the general public. The Hazards Outlook was originally a Climate Prediction Center product, but WPC assumed responsibility for the product beginning in early 2019. CPC still issues the hazards chart for the 8 to 14 day period (at: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/threats.php>).

The forecast graphic is accompanied by a narrative discussion, which describes the meteorological features that are associated with the depicted hazards. The graphic and discussion are issued once per day and are available by 3:30pm EST/4:30pm EDT Monday through Friday only. At the current time, this product is not issued on the weekends so please note that the information on the web page over the weekend may be out of date.

Criteria used to draw hazard areas

*Note that this is suggested starting point criteria and oftentimes actual considerations for the chart are based on subjectivity such as time of year, deviation from normal, or expected impacts

Hazard	Criteria
Heavy Rain	WPC Medium Range Marginal/Slight Risk Excessive Rainfall Outlook (ERO Days 4-5, hazards days 3-4). Internal experimental Marginal/Slight Risk Excessive Rainfall Outlook first guess (EXP Days 6-8, hazards days 5-7). Alaska: Variable thresholds based on season, geographic region, and duration
Heavy Snow	40% probability of Moderate snow-related Impacts based on WPC's Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index Alaska: Variable thresholds based on season, geographic region, and duration
Heavy Precipitation	Used when both heavy rain and snow criteria are met, or when there is precipitation type uncertainty but either type would meet the criteria if it were to occur. Often used for West Coast Atmospheric River events.
Freezing Rain	40% probability of moderate ice-related impacts based on WPC's Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

Hazardous Heat	40% probability of exceeding widespread NWS Heat Advisory criteria Alaska: High temperature thresholds ranging between 70-90 degrees during the Summer months
Hazardous Cold	40% probability of exceeding widespread upcoming NWS Cold Weather Advisory criteria
Frost/Freeze	40% probability of low temperatures < 36 (frost) or < 32 (freeze) during transition seasons
High Winds	40% probability of gusts greater than 55 mph (48 knots) Alaska: Variable thresholds between 40 - 55 knots based on geographic region
Significant Waves	Greater than 20 foot waves along coast or nearby waters
Severe Thunderstorms	Based on Storm Prediction Center medium range severe weather outlooks of 15% or greater
Drought	Areas at or above D2 on the U.S. Drought Monitor
Flooding likely, possible, or occurring	WPC Flood Outlook
Critical Wildfire Risk	SPC medium range fire weather outlooks