

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this product is not issued on the weekends so please note that the information on the web page over the weekend may be out of date.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 | CONUS + interior Alaska: 1 inch in 24-hrs Pacific Northwest + coastal Alaska/Panhandle: 2 inches in 24-hrs Aleutian Islands in Alaska: 1.5 inches in 24-hrs |
| Heavy Snow | CONUS (non-western U.S. mountains): 4 inches in 24-hrs Western U.S. Mountains: 8 inches in 24-hrs Alaska: 12 inches in 24-hrs |
| Heavy Precipitation | Used when either heavy rain or snow criteria is met, but there is uncertainty regarding precipitation type or transitioning precipitation types |
| Freezing Rain | High confidence of an event of any magnitude |
| Much above normal temperatures | CONUS: 12 degrees above normal for 2+ days, or +20 for 1 day Alaska: 20+ degrees above normal |
| Much below normal temperatures | CONUS: 12 degrees below normal for 2+ days, or -20 for 1 day Alaska: 20+ degrees below normal |
| Excessive Heat | Much of CONUS: heat indices greater than 100 degrees Gulf Coast, S. Texas, Florida: heat indices greater than 110 degrees Desert Southwest: heat indices greater than 115 |

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| High Winds | CONUS: Greater than 34 mph sustained for at least 1 hour, or greater than 58 mph gusts Alaska: Greater than ~35-50 knots |
| 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 |
| Enhanced Wildfire Risk | SPC medium range fire weather outlooks |