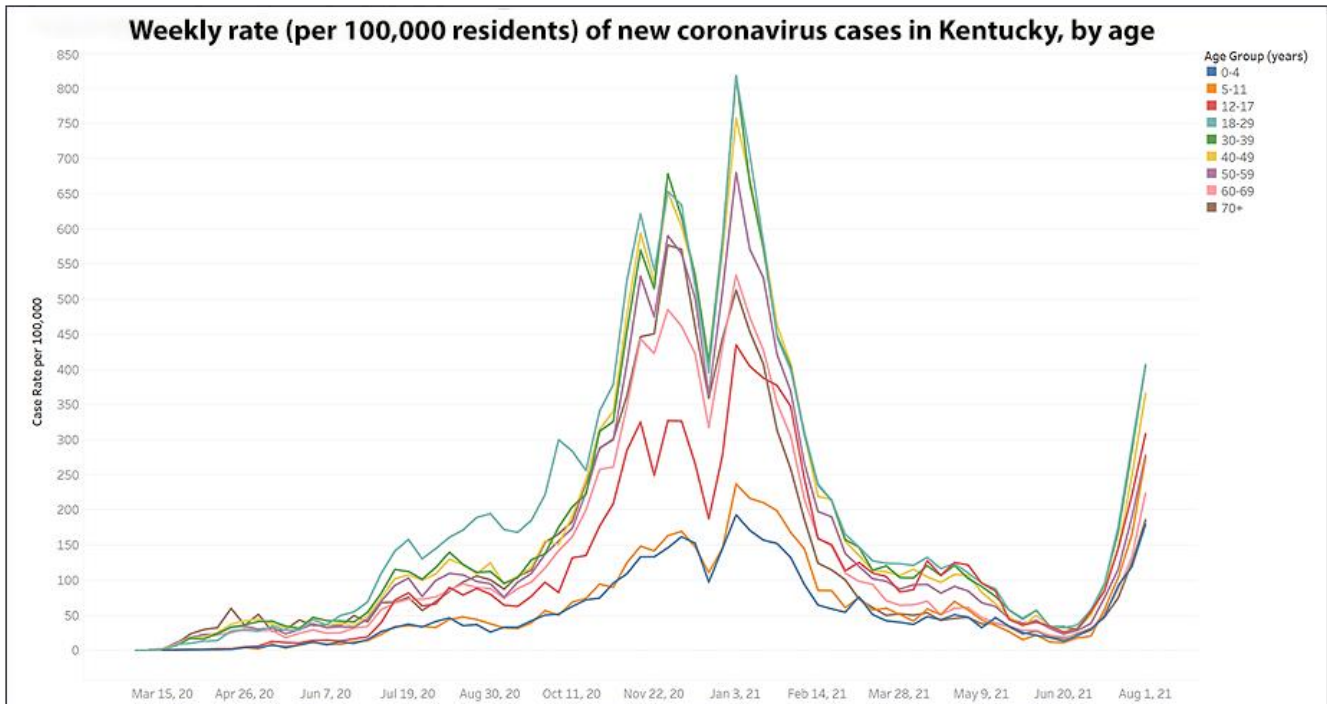




## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 11, 2021



[Health Commissioner Steven Stack showed this graph to demonstrate how the Delta variant of the coronavirus is infecting children as strongly as adults, unlike previous variants.]

**Get the latest Daily Report here – typically updated about 4 PM ET each day:**

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/COVID19DailyReport.pdf>

KDPH COVID site: <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

### **Pfizer and Moderna Go Head to Head Against Delta**

#### ***Variant knocked down effectiveness of one vaccine more than another, preprint finds***

(MedPage Today) Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine appeared to have a higher effectiveness rate compared with the Pfizer vaccine during the period of time when the Delta variant first became predominant, researchers reported.

While both vaccines were highly protective against infection from January to July in Minnesota (Moderna 86%, Pfizer 76%), their effectiveness estimates declined during the month of July, with an estimate of 76% for Moderna (95% CI 69-81) and 42% for Pfizer (95% CI 13-62), reported Venky Soundararajan, PhD, of nference, a healthcare research company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and colleagues.

Moreover, in a matched cohort from multiple states, a two-fold risk reduction against breakthrough infection was seen with Moderna's vaccine versus Pfizer's (incidence rate ratio [IRR] 0.50, 95% CI 0.39-0.64), the authors wrote in a study published on the preprint server [medRxiv](https://medrxiv.org/).

Learn more: <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19vaccine/93982>

### **Hundreds gather outside of St. Elizabeth Edgewood, protesting required vaccinations**

Learn more: <https://www.wlwt.com/article/hundreds-gather-outside-of-st-elizabeth-edgewood-protesting-required-vaccinations/37272666#>

### **Alabama Just Tossed 65,000 Vaccines.**

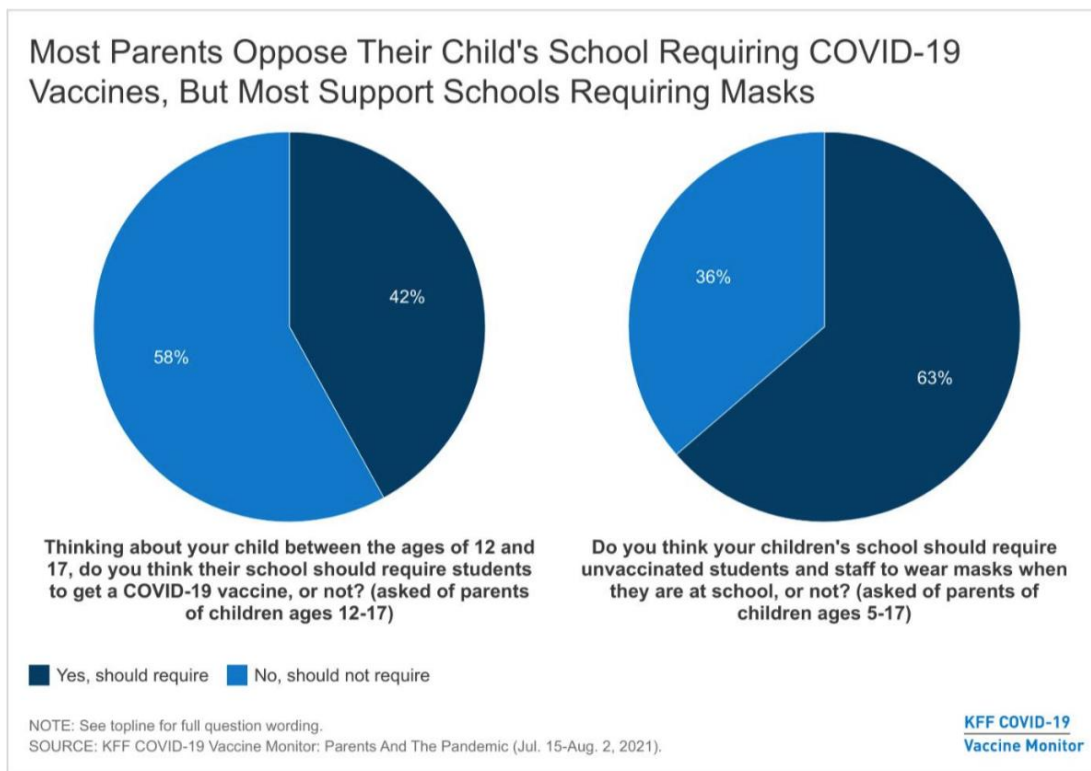
#### ***Turns Out It's Not Easy To Donate Unused Doses***

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/10/1025463260/alabama-just-tossed-65-000-vaccines-turns-out-its-not-easy-to-donate-unused-dose>

### **Nearly 94,000 Kids Got COVID-19 Last Week. They Were 15% Of All New Cases**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/08/10/1026375608/nearly-94-000-kids-got-covid-19-last-week-they-were-15-of-all-new-infections>

## More than 40% of parents with adolescents have had their kids vaccinated against COVID-19



(STAT Morning Rounds) Nearly half of parents with children ages 12-17 say their child has been vaccinated against Covid-19, according to the [latest vaccine report](#) from Kaiser Family Foundation. Here's more from the 1,200-person survey:

- **Overall trends:** 41% of parents of adolescents say their child has been vaccinated against Covid-19, up from 34% in June. Another 23% say they want to "wait and see" how the vaccine works in others, while 9% say they will only get their child a shot if it's school-mandated.
- **Mandates:** Nearly 60% of parents don't want schools to require that students get a Covid vaccine. Among parents of vaccinated children, three-quarters are in favor. At the same time, more than 60% of parents are supportive of mask requirements for unvaccinated students and staff.
- **Concerns:** The vast majority of parents of adolescents who are unvaccinated are concerned that not enough is known about long-term effects of the Covid-19 vaccine. Nearly three-quarters of those parents are concerned that the vaccine will affect their child's fertility, even though the CDC has stated that there is no evidence that any vaccine, including those for Covid, cause fertility issues.

### ----- -U.S. Developing Plan to Require Foreign Visitors to be Vaccinated

**Date:** 04-Aug-21 **Source:** Reuters **Summary:** The Biden administration is developing a plan to require nearly all foreign visitors to the United States to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as part of eventually lifting travel restrictions that bar much of the world from entering the United States, a White House official told Reuters on Wednesday. The White House wants to re-open travel, which would boost business for the airlines and tourism industry, but is not ready to immediately lift restrictions because of the rising COVID-19 case load and highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant, the official said. The Biden administration has interagency working groups working "to have a new system ready for when we can reopen travel," the official said, adding it includes "a phased approach that over time will mean, with limited exceptions, that foreign nationals traveling to the United States (from all countries) need to be fully vaccinated."

More Information at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/exclusive-us-developing-plan-require-foreign-visitors-be-vaccinated-official-2021-08-04/>

### ----- Multistate Outbreak of *Burkholderia cepacia* Infections Associated with Contaminated Ultrasound Gel

(CDC Clinician's Outreach) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is assisting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and several state and local health departments with an ongoing investigation of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex (Bcc) infections in healthcare facilities. Patients have developed Bcc infections,

including bloodstream infections, after having undergone ultrasound-guided procedures in which **MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel** was likely used.

MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel was likely used to guide ultrasonography in preparation for or during the procedures. Procedures have included ultrasound-guided placement of central and peripheral intravenous catheters and transcutaneous procedures including paracentesis.

As of August 3, 2021, preliminary testing indicates the presence of *Burkholderia stabilis*, a member of Bcc, in four lots of unopened bottles of MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel (Lot # B031, B040, B048, B055). These *B. stabilis* product isolates genetically match *B. stabilis* isolates obtained from at least 15 patients across multiple states. Additional laboratory testing of isolates or specimens from patients with reported Bcc infections and of additional lots of MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel is currently underway.

As of August 4, 2021, the manufacturer of MediChoice® M500812 ultrasound gel (Eco-Med Pharmaceutical, Etobicoke, ON, Canada) has issued a recall of Eco-Gel 200® ultrasound gel (also labeled as MediChoice® M500812, among others) with lots: B029, B030, B031, B032, B040, B041, B048, B055. Eco-Med is instructing all healthcare facilities to—

- Immediately stop using and quarantine all lots of the following ultrasound gels distributed under [these brand names](#).
- Identify the affected products by lot number and immediately destroy or return [products from affected lots](#) to Eco-Med.

Please refer to the [Eco-Med Recall Notice](#) for additional information.

As this investigation continues, CDC encourages healthcare facilities to report any patient infections related to the use of potentially contaminated medical products to FDA's [MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting](#) program. More information about this outbreak investigation and additional information for clinicians can be found on the CDC [website](#).

### **Water Utilities Ill-Prepared to Deal with Cyber Threats**

**Date:** 03-Aug-21 **Source:** Security Info Watch **Summary:** Ransomware attacks have garnered much of the cybersecurity headlines this year given their impact on industry supply chains and critical infrastructure operations. But among the most eye-opening incidents occurred in Oldsmar, Fla., in February of this year when a malicious actor attempted to raise the level of lye in the city's water supply. Had the perpetrator not been caught tampering with the system by a facility employee, this cyber-attack could have resulted in actual physical harm to residents and potentially even deaths. The simplicity of this cyber-attack – compromising a remote access software program installed on the employee's computer – also illustrates the gravity of the situation facing water utilities as they oftentimes employ decades-old operational technology (OT) systems and attempt to create a patchwork security plan using various IT and IoT solutions they've been connected to over the years. More Information at: <https://www.securityinfowatch.com/cybersecurity/article/21232939/water-utilities-illprepared-to-deal-with-cyber-threats>

### **NIMS Alert 31-21: FEMA Releases **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Positions****

FEMA has released [National Qualification System \(NQS\)](#) Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Position Task Books (PTBs) for three CERT positions:

- [CERT Chief](#) - a volunteer who is responsible for a specific functional area within the CERT
- [CERT Team Leader](#) - a volunteer part of a CERT who directs team activities
- [CERT Volunteer](#) - a volunteer who is a part of a CERT and trains in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations

These resource typing documents will facilitate the sharing of deployable CERT positions at all jurisdictional levels.

- View Position Task Books: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components/position-task-books>
- View job titles/qualifications: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components/positions>

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InfraGard Webinar

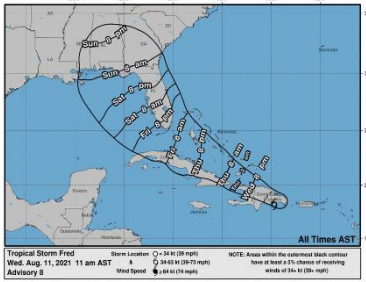
**August 17 @ 12 Noon – 4 PM EST/9 AM – 1PM PST**

**Countering Active Terrorist Cells in the Homeland (C.A.T.C.H.)**

Presented by InfraGard Los Angeles | Questions: [IGLATraining@infragardlosangeles.org](mailto:IGLATraining@infragardlosangeles.org)

[Click to register.](#)

\*\*This class is eligible for 4 ASIS CPE credits.



## Tropical Storm Fred, churning near Dominican Republic, eyes Florida by weekend - *What to know...*

(USA Today, August 11) The newly formed Tropical Storm Fred was churning toward the Dominican Republic and Haiti on Wednesday, threatening heavy rains and flooding after it drenched the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Fred reached tropical storm strength late Tuesday. The storm passed over the U.S. territories, where power outages were reported, and it could cause river flooding and the potential for mudslides. <[Read more](#)>

NHC Site: [https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics\\_at1+shtml/145856.shtml?cone#contents](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at1+shtml/145856.shtml?cone#contents)

**[Monitor Fred's progress. Depending on what happens after it hits the FL panhandle, this could impact KY weather.]**

**NWS Louisville:** HEAT ADVISORY FOR CENTRAL KY IN EFFECT TO 9 PM EDT /8 PM CDT/ THURSDAY. Heat indices between 105-109 degrees. DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN (Thursday through next Tuesday), isolated to scattered storms will be possible mainly in the afternoon and evening hours Wednesday through Friday. Stronger storms will be capable of producing heavy rainfall and gusty winds.

**NWS Paducah:** HEAT ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR WESTERN KY UNTIL 8 PM CDT THURSDAY. DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN (Thursday through next Tuesday), heat index readings will range from around 105 to as high as 110 Thursday afternoon. A good chance of thunderstorms is forecast with a cold frontal passage Friday and Friday night. A few strong storms with gusty winds will be possible, but the primary concerns will be locally heavy rainfall and lightning. Afternoon heat index values are forecast to top out near 100 degrees Friday over the southern half of the region. A small chance of mainly afternoon and evening thunderstorms is forecast for much of the region each day from Saturday through Tuesday. The best chances through the period will generally be over west Kentucky. Locally heavy rainfall and lightning will be the primary concerns.

**NWS Jackson:** Hazardous Weather Outlook for Eastern KY - There is a chance for thunderstorms through this evening, mostly east of I-75, and again late tonight near the Virginia border. A few of the storms could briefly become strong with gusty winds and torrential rainfall being the primary hazards. The combination of high humidity levels and temperatures warming into the upper 80s to lower 90s this afternoon will cause heat indices to reach the mid to upper 90s, with a few locations seeing 100 degrees. DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN (Thursday through next Tuesday) thunderstorms will be possible at times, especially during the afternoon and early evening time frame. Any of the stronger storms will be capable of producing gusty winds and heavy rainfall. High humidity levels and temperatures warming to around 90 will result in heat indices around 100 degrees in most locations on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

**NWS Wilmington, OH** for Northern KY: Hazardous Weather Outlook for strong to severe storms are possible today with damaging winds being the main threat. Locally heavy rain is also possible with the strongest storms. The heat index may reach between 95 and 100 today. DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN (Thursday through next Tuesday) the heat index may reach between 100 and 105 on Thursday. Strong to severe storms are possible Thursday and Friday with damaging winds being the main threat. Locally heavy rain is also possible with the strongest storms.

## Fire officials are predicting more wildfires in the West as forecasts call for dangerously high temperatures

(CNN, August 11) Driven by blistering temperatures across the West, fire personnel are bracing for more wildfires as they battle dozens that have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres across the region. "Fire managers prepare for a potential increase in initial attack and overall fire activity in the Northern California, Northwest, Northern Rockies and Great Basin areas due to hot temperatures, dry fuels and predicted dry lightning," the National Interagency Fire Center said in its Tuesday update. <[Read more](#)>

**Related NWS information is included below.**

## U.S. struggles to find enough firefighters as wildfires rage across West

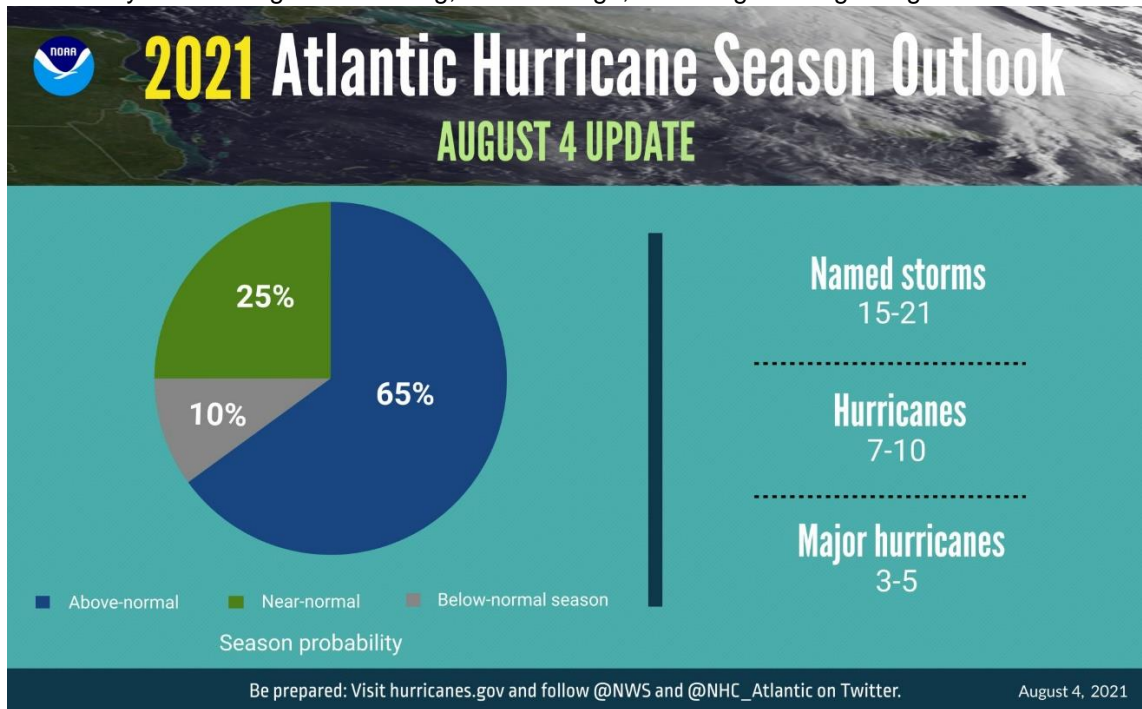
Read more: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1231147.shtml>

The KHEF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact [Preparedness@kyha.com](mailto:Preparedness@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.



## #WeatherReady summertime opportunities

Extreme heat, drought, and wildfires continue to make headlines out West, while peak hurricane season is less than a month away. Along our coasts, rip current deaths are at a record setting pace. And thunderstorms across the country are causing flash flooding, wind damage, and dangerous lightning strikes. As much as ever, now is



a great time to share safety messaging, act as force multipliers, and serve as examples to others.

(1) NOAA's mid-season hurricane outlook maintains a likelihood for an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane season.

## And just released infographics highlighting dangers "After the Storm"...

**After the Storm:**  
**HAZARDS REMAIN**

- Be careful near damaged buildings**  
Do not enter a damaged building until local authorities say it's safe. Leave your home if there's shifting or unusual noises. If you smell gas, get outdoors immediately and call 911.
- Watch out for power lines**  
Stay far away from damaged power lines, whether they've fallen to the ground or are dangling overhead.
- Don't walk or drive through floodwaters**  
They can contain harmful bacteria, chemicals, sharp objects, live wires and reptiles/other animals. It only takes 12 inches of fast-moving water to sweep a car away.

weather.gov

## (2) Check out the new Rip Current Safety Toolkit

The NWS Marine Program has been working with the [United States Lifesaving Association \(USLA\)](https://usla.org) on developing a [rip current safety toolkit](#) for those who wish to advocate for rip current safety.

The toolkit contains presentations, videos, graphics and brochures that provide NWS/USLA approved rip current safety language. Advocates include coastal safety trainers, like the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

and folks who may have lost a loved one to a rip and want to start a messaging foundation. This toolkit assures accurate and consistent messaging.

This toolkit comes out in a year where we are on a record breaking pace for rip current deaths. As of 8/6/2021, there have been at least 76 surf-zone fatalities reported, including 57 due to rip currents alone. **Rip Current Safety Toolkit URL:** <https://www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent-toolkit>

Also there is a new [2021 Preliminary Surf Zone Fatalities Dashboard](#). This interactive web page breaks beach hazards up into the individual hazards, including rip currents, by state, gender and month. The [Surf Zone Fatalities web page](#) that is part of our rip current safety page also now includes an interactive map and dynamic table with sortable columns for the hazard, location, state, gender, age and date. This information provides important input to help NWS focus outreach and safety messaging by season, geography, sector, and demographic.

### (3) New “Destructive” Severe Thunderstorm Warning category to trigger

#### **Wireless Emergency Alerts** on mobile phones

Severe Thunderstorms deemed “destructive” will activate a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on smartphones. Criteria for a destructive threat is at least 2.75 inch diameter hail and/or 80 mph thunderstorm winds.

Learn more at: <https://www.weather.gov/news/072221-svr-wea>

### (4) Western Drought, Heat, and Wildfires Continue

Always stay informed of the latest conditions and do your part to minimize the impacts of drought, heat, and wildfires, including air quality.





[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)


[www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

[www.weather.gov/wrn](http://www.weather.gov/wrn)

**Wildfires** can escalate quickly.

Wildfire growth can be terrifyingly sudden and deadly. Prepare ahead of time so you'll be ready.

-  Clear brush away from your home to create defensible space
-  Use fire-resistant landscaping
-  Know your potential evacuation routes
-  Have an emergency supply kit ready to go

 [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)

Thank you for connecting with the  
Weather-Ready Nation Team - "Be a Force of Nature"