

The Weather Whisper

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Changes to NWS Heat Products

The National Weather Service will be simplifying its heat products to improve messaging and decision-making services. As of March 4 2025, the following changes will take effect:

- Excessive Heat Watch is now **Extreme Heat Watch**
- Excessive Heat Warning is now **Extreme Heat Warning**.

Heat Advisories remain unchanged.

Why this may be important to you?

- Any entity that has decision making based on the heat headline products will want to review/update plans to account for the NWS product changes.

Motivations for changes:

- The name change will allow the NWS to improve communication and messaging of hazardous heat with partners and the general public.
- Align terminology with recent changes to [cold-related products](#) and other federal partner language regarding dangerous and hazardous heat.

Read more about the changes [here](#).

The image shows two side-by-side panels comparing NWS heat products. The left panel is titled 'EXTREME HEAT WATCH' and states it is issued when 'dangerous heat is possible'. It advises to reschedule outdoor activities and protect vulnerable groups. The right panel is titled 'EXTREME HEAT WARNING' and states it is issued when 'dangerous heat is happening or about to happen'. It advises to avoid heavy activity and seek shade. Both panels include the 'Be Prepared.' and 'Take Action!' slogans and the weather.gov logo.

EXTREME HEAT WATCH	EXTREME HEAT WARNING
An Extreme Heat Watch is issued when dangerous heat is possible .	An Extreme Heat Warning is issued when dangerous heat is happening or about to happen .
Reschedule outdoor activities in the coming days. Make sure that children, the elderly, and pets have a place to cool off during the heat.	Avoid heavy activity & direct sunlight. Stay hydrated, find a cool indoor place, and check on children, elderly & pets.
Be Prepared.	Take Action!

Tri-Office IWT Meeting

Brooke Hagenhoff, Lead Meteorologist

On February 25th staff from NWS Des Moines, La Crosse, and Davenport met up in Waterloo, IA along with area Emergency Managers and broadcast meteorologists with KWWL and KGAN for an Integrated Warning Team (IWT) meeting. What's an IWT? It's a group of dedicated professionals committed to keep YOU safe and informed when the weather turns threatening. Each group has a different but important role and we work together to share critical information. Meetings such as this are important to build relationships, share ideas, and increase communication. The day consisted of exercises in winter weather, hydrology, and severe weather, in addition to a speaker from the University of Northern Iowa who discussed societal responses to weather warning systems. As we transition into spring, this group is ready. Are you?



*IWT attendees listen to Dr. Mark Welford.
Photo from Black Hawk Co EMA.
Click image to view larger*

Spotter Feature of the Month: Ice Jams

The spotter feature of the month series exists to highlight one or more phenomena each month to educate our spotters and Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors on various weather they may see and can [report to their local NWS!](#) Interested in becoming a spotter? Attend a class this spring! Find the schedule [here](#).



Click image to view larger

Ice Jams occur when ice on area streams shifts and forms temporary blockages. They are most common in sharp bends or near bridges or other obstructions. They can develop in response to runoff from snowmelt or rainfall or from melting of the ice itself. Ice jams typically occur from late winter into the spring. Impacts from ice jams include flash flooding downstream of an ice jam if it breaks, upstream flooding from water collecting ahead of the ice jam or property damage from the ice itself. If you see an ice jam or impacts from one please report it to the NWS!

On the Cover:

Snow at the NWS Des Moines office on February 12, 2025. On February 11-12 a band of 6-10" of snow fell across the southeast half of Iowa. This was the first heavy snow event of the winter season. Read the full event summary [HERE](#).



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