



National Weather Service Aberdeen, South Dakota



October 2011

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Winter Weather Preparedness

South Dakota Winter Weather Preparedness Day - October 26th

Minnesota Winter Weather Preparedness Week - November 7th-11th

The color filled trees, cool nights and football filled weekends are all indicators of fall in the northern plains. This also means that the cold and snow of winter will be here before we know it. However, if some attention is paid to minor details during this time, we can do our best to be prepared for winter. To assist in refocusing on the hazards that winter weather can bring, time has been set aside devoted to the hazards of winter weather. In South Dakota, Winter Weather Preparedness Day is October 26th. In Minnesota, Winter Weather Preparedness week will be November 7-11.

Is the family vehicle ready for the winter season? How about the house? Do those drafty windows need some caulking to keep out the chill of winter? If natural gas is used for heat, make sure the furnace is at peak performance and any potential carbon monoxide leaks are addressed. Do you remember what the various winter weather advisories, watches and warnings mean? Take a little bit of time and visit the websites listed below to brush up on winter weather definitions, tidbits and safety items. There are also links listed to get the latest travel conditions

dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/emergency_management/documents/Winter11.pdf

www.weather.gov/aberndeen

www.weather.gov/minneapolis

www.winterweather.state.mn.us

<http://www.safetravelusa.com/sd>

<http://www.511mn.org/>



New Experimental Product This Winter

This coming winter, the National Weather Service offices across the upper Midwest will begin testing a new product called the *Extreme Cold (EC) Warning*. The EC warning will cover both actual air temperatures and wind chill (or apparent) temperatures. It is hoped that after reviewing the product feedback next spring, the NWS will be able to replace the Wind Chill Advisory/Warning product with this single product. During this experiment, Wind Chill Products will not be issued.

The EC warning product will also give forecasters a little bit more flexibility as to when it will be issued. The warning will not be issued for temperatures and/or wind chills warmer than minus 30F, and will always be issued for temperatures and/or wind chills colder than minus 35F. For temperatures between minus 30 and minus 35, forecasters will be able to evaluate the current situation and assess if the product is needed. An example would be several nights when temperatures fall into that minus 25F to minus 30F range, then suddenly one night dips down to minus 31F. No product would need to be issued simply because the temperature fell another 2 to 3 degrees when compared to previous nights. Additionally, the EC will not be issued for a single point. Rather, conditions must be met over a wide area, over a period of hours.

With this being an experimental product, the NWS would like to garner your feedback on the product. This feedback will allow us to better tailor this product to the needs of our customers. The feedback survey can be found at the following site:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ecw>



Cooperative Observers Honored

Walter and Avis Brandenburger John Campanius Holm Award Winners



The John Campanius Holm Award was created to honor Cooperative Observers for outstanding contributions in the field of meteorological observations. It is named for a Lutheran minister, the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in the American Colonies. Reverend Holm made weather observations, without the aid of instruments, in 1644 and 1645 near the present site of Wilmington, Delaware. His son later had the observations published. From hundreds of nominations every year, no more than twenty five of these awards are presented annually to volunteer observers. The certificate is signed by the Administration of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and presented by local National Weather Service representatives.

Recognizing 22 years of service, the Brandenburgers were nominated for this award by Ken Gillespie and Tim Kearns from the National Weather Service office in Aberdeen. Avis and Walter also received letters of support from Senators Thune and Johnson and Congresswoman Noem. In addition to the letters of support, Governor Dugaard declared Saturday, August 20, 2011 as Avis and Walter Brandenburger Day in South Dakota in honor of the two award recipients. Avis and Walter are pictured above being presented their award by Jim Scarlett, Meteorologist in Charge at the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, SD.

CONGRATULATIONS

La Nina Returns

La Niña, which contributed to extreme weather around the globe during the first half of 2011, has re-emerged in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is forecast to gradually strengthen and continue into winter. Today, forecasters with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center upgraded last month's La Niña Watch to a La Niña Advisory.

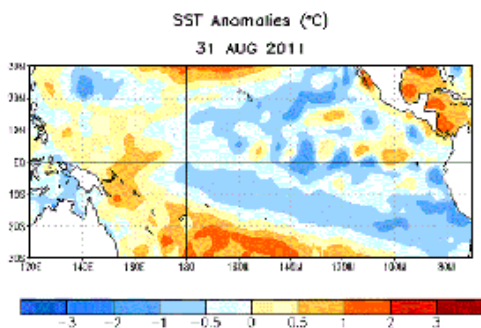
NOAA will issue its official winter outlook in mid-October, but La Niña winters often see drier than normal conditions across the southern tier of the United States and wetter than normal conditions in the Pacific Northwest and Ohio Valley.

"This means drought is likely to continue in the drought-stricken states of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the Climate Prediction Center. "La Niña also often brings colder winters to the Pacific Northwest and the northern Plains, and warmer temperatures to the southern states."

Climate forecasts from NOAA's National Weather Service give American communities advance notice of what to expect in the coming months so they can prepare for potential impacts. This service is helping the country to become a Weather Ready Nation at a time when extreme weather is on the rise.

Seasonal hurricane forecasters factored the potential return of La Niña into NOAA's updated 2011 Atlantic hurricane season outlook, issued in August, which called for an active hurricane season. With the development of tropical storm Nate this week, the number of tropical cyclones entered the predicted range of 14-19 named storms.

The strong 2010-11 La Niña contributed to record winter snowfall, spring flooding and drought across the United States, as well as other extreme weather events throughout the world, such as heavy rain in Australia and an extremely dry equatorial eastern Africa.



La Niña is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon located over the tropical Pacific Ocean and results from interactions between the ocean surface and the atmosphere. During La Niña, cooler-than-average Pacific Ocean temperatures influence global weather patterns. La Niña typically occurs every three-to-five years, and back-to-back episodes occur about 50 percent of the time. Current conditions reflect a re-development of the June 2010-May 2011 La Niña episode.

Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the week centered on August 31, 2011 indicate the reemergence of La Niña in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at weather.gov and on [Facebook](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

Winter Weather Products

With winter fast approaching, we here at the National Weather Service in Aberdeen would like to take this time to refresh our customers with some of the more common winter weather products that we issue and the criteria needed for product issuance. This will hopefully give you a better understanding of what we do and why we do it.

Watch products: Conditions are expected in 12 to 48 hours

Blizzard: Issued when conditions are favorable for a blizzard event to meet or exceed Blizzard Warning criteria.

Winter Storm; Issued when conditions are favorable for a winter storm evening (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, blowing snow or a combination of events) to meet or exceed warning criteria.

Warning products: Conditions are ongoing or imminent

Blizzard: Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph or more with falling and/or blowing snow, frequently reducing visibility to 1/4 mile or less for 3 or more hours.

Winter Storm: Winter weather event having one or a combination of heavy snow, heavy snow and blowing snow, snow and ice, snow and sleet, sleet and ice, or snow, sleet and ice meeting or exceeding warning criteria for at least one element. Heavy snow is defined as 6 inches or more in 12 hours, or 8 inches or more in 24 hours.

Ice Storm: Ice accumulation of 1/4 inch or more.

Advisory products:

Winter Weather: Sustained wind or frequent gusts between 25 and 34 mph with falling and/or blowing snow, reducing visibility to less than 1 mile but more than 1/4 mile for 3 or more hours. Winter weather event having one or a combination of snow, snow and blowing snow, snow and ice, snow and sleet, or snow, ice and sleet meeting or exceeding advisory criteria for at least one element, but remaining below warning criteria. Advisory snowfall is defined as 3 to 5 inches over 12 hours.

Freezing Rain: Light ice accumulation under 1/4 inch.



Nationwide EAS Test

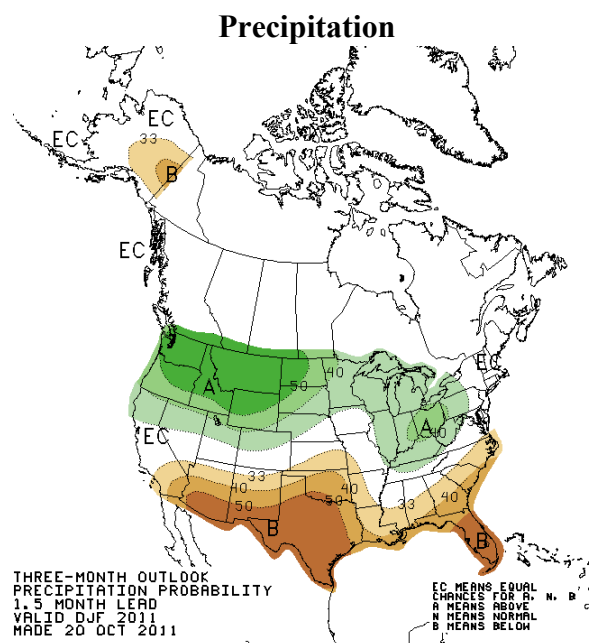
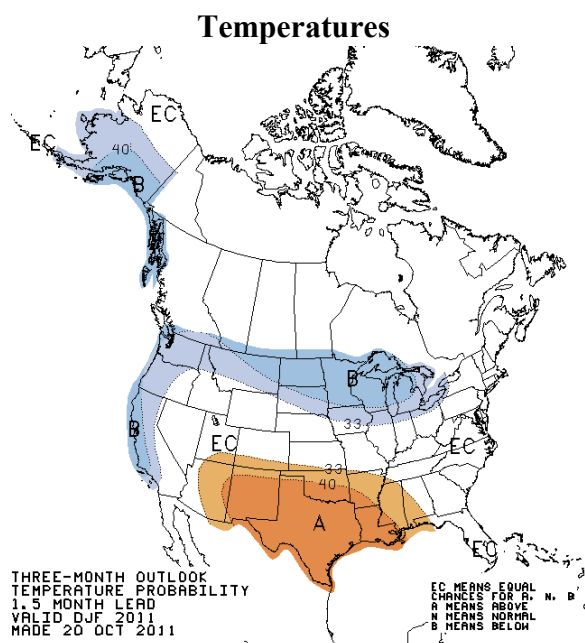
On November 9th at approximately 1:00 PM CST, South Dakota and surrounding states will participate in a Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). It will be heard on the radio and seen on local, cable, and satellite TV.

The purpose of this test is to assess the readiness and effectiveness of the EAS and identify improvements to better serve our communities in the preservation of life and property. Although the EAS is frequently used by the NWS and State and local governments to send weather alerts and other emergencies, there has never been a national activation of the system. The Test may look like regular, local Emergency Alert System tests that most people are already familiar with, but there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will repeat *This is a test*. The television, cable or satellite video test message scroll may NOT indicate *This is a test*. The message will last for approximately three minutes and then regular programming will resume.

The Nationwide Test of the EAS will NOT be broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio stations as it is intended to test other parts of the communication system. The NOAA Weather Radio Routine Weekly Test that would normally be held on Wednesday, November 9, will be held on Tuesday, November 8. No NOAA Weather Radio Routine Weekly Test will be conducted on Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

As Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments prepare for and test their capabilities, this event serves as a reminder that everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and emergency plan for themselves, their families, communities, and businesses. Visit FEMA.gov.

Winter Outlook: December through February



New Employee



Ryan Vipond
Meteorologist Intern

Hello! My name is Ryan Vipond and I am the latest Meteorologist Intern to join the staff of the National Weather Service in Aberdeen. I am new to South Dakota, but have lived in the region most of my life. I was born and raised in Alexandria, MN and have spent most of my professional career in the area. I received a Bachelor degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks in 2002. Following graduation, I joined the broadcast industry working for KSAX-TV in Alexandria and KVLV-TV in Fargo, ND. I also worked for a private forecasting company in the Twin Cities. In 2008, I joined the National Weather Service and worked in the Brownsville, TX office for the last 3 years. My wife Michelle is also a Minnesota native and we have 2 children, Nicholas and Rebecca. We are excited to be back in the area close to home and look forward to living here.

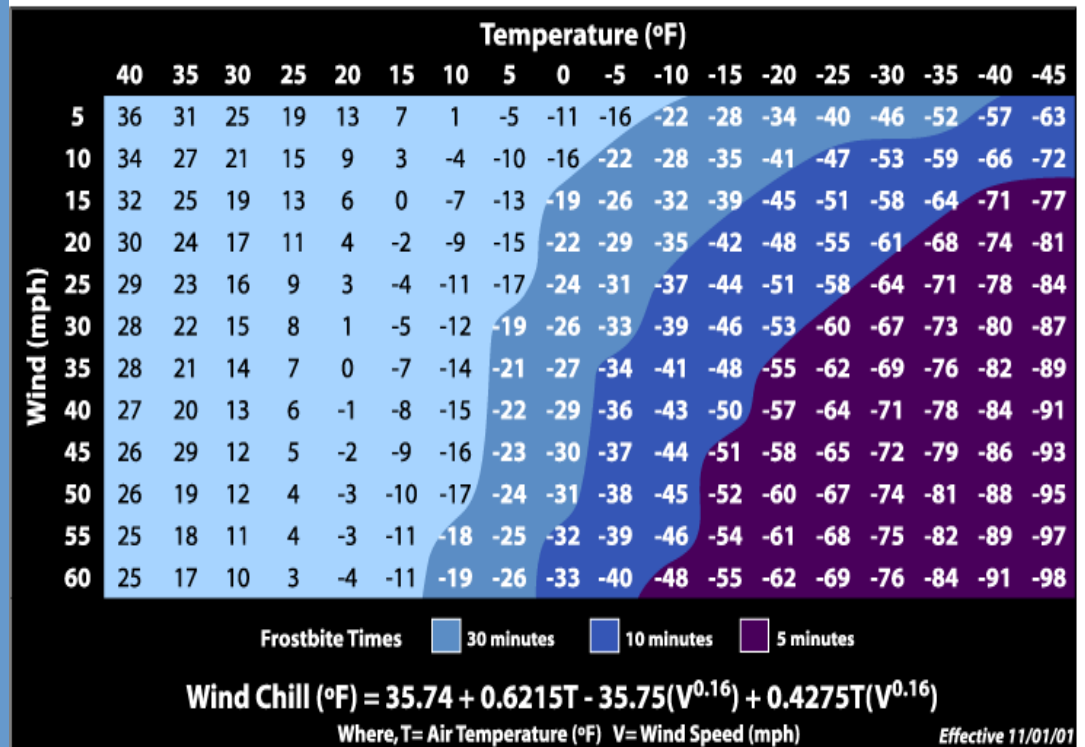
National Weather Service participates in volunteer event

Seventeen National Weather Service staff and family members helped package meals for underprivileged kids for the humanitarian food-aid organization Kids Against Hunger in Aberdeen on September 29th. Along with one other group of volunteers, over 10,000 meals were packaged in just over two hours. If you are interested in volunteering with Kids Against Hunger, call 605-262-4444 or see their website at www.kidsagainsthungeraberdeensd.org





Wind Chill Chart



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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57401

Phone: 605-225-0519

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

www.weather.gov/aberndeen

Oh Autumn, how I have
missed you. Cool nights,
sunny days, school starts
as summer fades.

~ Caroline Glen