



## Pittsburgh Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence Films Weather Safety Story

By: NWS Staff



*Pictured from left to right: Shirley McIntyre, Mike Lotz, Aaron Bolinger, and Emily Peterson meet at a recently built stage located at The Great Stoneboro Fairgrounds*

Performing at outdoor venues is not uncommon for 2020 NWS Pittsburgh Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence Aaron Bolinger. His band plays all across the mid-Atlantic, and he has been actively promoting weather safety at outdoor venues for years. This was one of the reasons he was selected as Pittsburgh's Ambassador of Excellence.

As a lightning strike survivor; Aaron's passion for performing on stage while promoting weather safety makes him the ideal WRN Ambassador as he is able to connect the NWS mission of protecting life and property to a larger audience. This is why WFO Pittsburgh graciously followed him to The Great Stoneboro Fair of Mercer County, PA this past August. The fair has been around for over 150 years and attracts tens of thousands of patrons annually

during the last week of summer. It was here that entertainment agent and musician Mike Lotz, Great Stoneboro Fair Board of Directors member Shirley McIntyre, musician and WRN ambassador Aaron Bolinger, and NWS Pittsburgh's **Myranda Fullerton** sat down to discuss planning for weather safety during large, outdoor events. Through the eyes of the talented camera operator, Emily Peterson, editing and production of a short film is underway, intended to support increased weather awareness ahead of and during outdoor events.

Each person provided answers to the types of questions listed below based on their role and unique perspective:

- Does the venue provide adequate, sturdy shelter to protect from wind, hail, and direct sunlight?
- Where are lightning strikes more likely to occur? Are there any trees or taller objects nearby?
- Although the forecast calls for full sunshine, what does that mean for apparent temperature in full sun or on a black top surface?
- Would the crowd know where to go in the event of a severe thunderstorm or tornado?
- Are there any areas onsite that are more susceptible to flash flooding?

Aaron's concerns are nothing new and hold no reservations to the type of band they impact. In fact, on August 20, 1966, the Beatles were due to have played an open-air show in Cincinnati in heavy rain. "It was so wet that we couldn't play. They'd brought in the electricity, but the stage was soaking and we would have been electrocuted, so we canceled - the only gig we ever missed." - George Harrison (article from the Cincinnati Enquirer).

"I asked Aaron what the ideal weather conditions are for a band performing at an outdoor venue. His answer? 'No such thing,'" said Myranda Fullerton of NWS Pittsburgh. Through Aaron's work, WFO Pittsburgh are hoping to engage performers, venue organizers, and patrons alike to think about the types of weather impacts they may experience at a given show. To state it simply, weather disasters CAN happen, and logistics surrounding an outdoor event can almost certainly exacerbate the challenges. Weather awareness is everyone's responsibility.



*Horse stables at the entrance to The Great Stoneboro Fairgrounds*

"[It's about] changing attitudes," said [Aaron Bolinger](#), NWS Pittsburgh WRN Ambassador. "That's a lot of what my mission is with this, and I think that should fit nicely with the NWS mission to promote safety. This can work!"

## September is National Preparedness Month and the Start of the Fall Safety Campaign

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

Although summer seems to be holding its grip on much of the nation this year, September ushers in refreshing cold fronts, the start of fall foliage, and football. But September is also the peak of hurricane season and can bring devastating wildfires and flooding. September is also [National Preparedness Month](#). This year's theme is *A Lasting Legacy. The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family.* NWS shares this call-to-action with FEMA to better prepare families in every community. Check out our Weather-Ready Nation safety content at <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/fall-safety>



*Extreme Weather Preparedness*  
**Emergency Meeting Places**

- Identify safe meeting places for wherever you normally are: at home, work, or school
- Map out exits, and share the address and directions
- Have an out-of-town location in case of evacuation

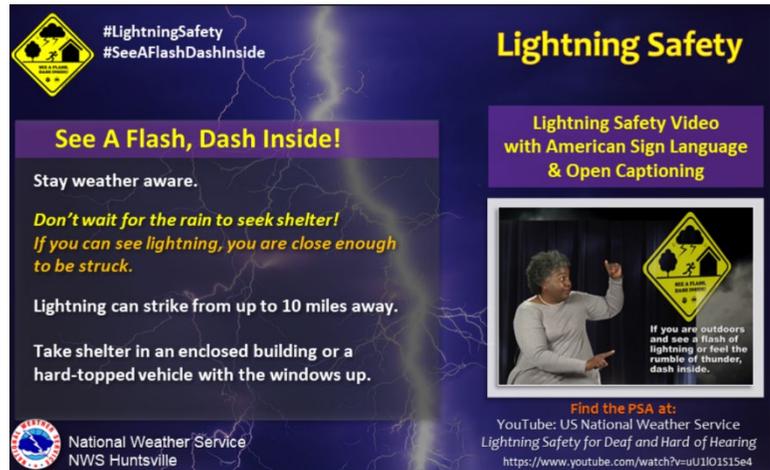
weather.gov 

## 2022 International Week of the Deaf

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

Every year, International Week of the Deaf runs the last full week of September. The [World Federation of the Deaf](#) theme for 2022 was "*Building Inclusive Communities for All*," which took place September 19-25. While the International Week of the Deaf has passed, the accessibility of weather safety and resources is a year round effort. Building a Weather-Ready Nation for all is a priority of the NWS, and our [Deaf and Hard of Hearing website](#) is improved with more and more content every year. As of this September's International Week of the Deaf, the current site contains hazard-specific safety videos, information on NOAA Weather Radio, and information on how the deaf and hard of hearing can become better prepared.

Commonly used Hashtags were:  
#DeafAwarenessWeek #IWDeaf #ASL #Deaf #SeeAFlashDashInside



#LightningSafety  
#SeeAFlashDashInside

**See A Flash, Dash Inside!**

Stay weather aware.

*Don't wait for the rain to seek shelter!*  
*If you can see lightning, you are close enough to be struck.*

Lightning can strike from up to 10 miles away.

Take shelter in an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle with the windows up.

**Lightning Safety**

Lightning Safety Video with American Sign Language & Open Captioning

*If you are outdoors and see a flash of lightning or feel the rumble of thunder, dash inside.*

Find the PSA at:  
YouTube: US National Weather Service  
Lightning Safety for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU101S1Se4>

National Weather Service  
NWS Huntsville

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## Fighting Fire with Forecasts: Photo Story Available Online

By: NWS Staff



*Rum Creek fire near Merlin, Oregon, August 2022  
(Photo by Robert Hyatt, NOAA's National Weather Service)*

To date, the U.S. has seen more than 50,000 wildfires resulting in nearly seven million acres burned in 2022. Organizing resources and crews to fight wildfires is an enormous undertaking. Today, more than 15,000 wildland firefighters and support personnel are assigned to wildfire incidents across the country. Among the crews are specially trained meteorologists with NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), called Incident Meteorologists (IMETs).

When there is a large wildfire, an IMET is often deployed to the fire incident command post. IMETs provide critical fire weather information to wildfire management teams so they can map out the safest possible tactics for firefighters, while also generating immediate and short-term spot forecasts needed for fire suppression. NOAA has approximately 100 IMETs

and IMET trainees that are stationed at NWS forecast offices throughout the country, ready to deploy.

NOAA's IMETs assisted at several wildfires in the West during the last two weeks of August, 2022. To read more about how they traveled to the fire line to provide critical weather data, visit the full [photo story](#) online!

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## West Gulf RFC and WFO El Paso Hold Joint Meeting with International Boundary and Water Commission

By: NWS Staff



*WGRFC SCH Gregory Waller speaks to forecasters from WFO El Paso on RFC operations*

On August 31, 2022, the West Gulf River Forecast Center (WGRFC) visited WFO El Paso to discuss collaboration opportunities and share the latest hydrological tools and techniques available for operations. WFO El Paso's forecast domain includes two primary watersheds, with the Rio Grande, Mimbres, and Rio Peñasco basins monitored by WGRFC.

A presentation on RFC operations and duties highlighted hours of operation and how hydrologists message daily river forecasts. Another presentation topic was on flood inundation mapping and how the RFC uses this evolving science to better understand flooding on smaller scales.

The two offices met with partners from the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) on September 1, 2022. IBWC is an international organization that follows the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico, which regulates the usage and access of water of the Rio Grande, Colorado, and Tijuana rivers between both nations.

Some of the activities done by the USIBWC include water accounting and diversion, flood protection, and water quality, among others. Every year, representatives from both the National Weather Service and IBWC hold a meeting to discuss several agreements and responsibilities.

This year, the meeting centered on reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), drought services, and hydrologic models used by both agencies, in addition to issues observed along the Rio Grande in recent years. In addition, there was an overview of the West

Gulf River Forecast Center operations and an introduction to the incoming Flood Inundation Mapping to the NWS. The IBWC and the National Weather Service Southern Region have a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between both agencies. This MOU allows for the sharing of data, information, and areas of concern. This helps ensure support of operations and cooperation between similar programs of both agencies. The MOU is renewed every 5 years.



Forecasters from both West Gulf RFC and WFO El Paso at the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, TX

## NHC/TAFB Decision Support Efforts with USCG for 2022 Hurricane Season

By: NWS Staff

The National Hurricane Center's Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (NHC-TAFB) continues to enhance its partnership with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) District 7 (D7) in Miami, FL and District 8 (D8) in New Orleans, LA.

In April, **Stephen Konarik**, **Amanda Reinhart**, and **Andrew Hagen**, along with the NHC Hurricane Specialist Unit and Storm Surge Unit, designed and executed a D8 table-top exercise that simulated two hurricanes impacting the Gulf Coast. This prepared incoming D8 members who have not experienced living and working along the Gulf Coast during hurricane season.



Brad Reinhart (left), Amanda Reinhart, Stephen Konarik, RADM Richard Timme, Jamie Rhome, Chris Landsea, and Aidan Mahoney among other USCG partners.

TAFB and WFO Miami staff also visited D7 headquarters to give a preseason talk on products and services, and they hosted D7 for a tour of NHC. In May, NHC representatives visited D8 to train Rear Admiral Richard Timme and others on NHC products and services. In June, **Jorge Aguirre-Echevarria** and **Amanda Reinhart** visited WFO Houston, where they accompanied SOO **Lance Wood** on a visit to USCG Sector Houston. NHC also hosted a visit by Vice Admiral Kevin Lunday, the Atlantic Area Commander, and TAFB gave several briefings to D7 for Potential Tropical Cyclone One. **Dr. Chris Landsea** and **Stephen Konarik** virtually met with the incoming D8 Chief of Incident Command, Zachary Glass, to introduce TAFB services.

In August, **Andrew Hagen** gave a preparation talk to D7 and their families ahead of peak hurricane season. In response to NHC's work with USCG, D7 Rear Admiral Brendan McPherson wrote: "I had the chance to chat with [VADM Lunday] following this visit and he was most impressed with the relationship and partnership between NWS/NHC and USCG. I told him it's the best I've seen in over 30 years of service."

Through these efforts, NHC-TAFB and WFO colleagues continue to show their commitment to serving Core Partners like the USCG.



**Aware**

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