

Community Outreach

The NWS Anchorage office is active in public outreach through tours, demonstrations and lectures on a variety of weather related topics. NWS Anchorage has a rich tradition of community outreach activities. Our staff is available for community activities such as classroom projects, exhibitions, informative talks, and tours of our facility.

Mesonet

The "MesoNet" is a network of weather stations provided by local businesses, fire stations, schools, and private homes. These automated observations are essential to forecasters at the National Weather Service Anchorage Forecast Office, provide a service to the community, as well as offer a unique educational tool to area schools.

We are continuing to expand the MesoNet and are always looking for volunteers willing to share their weather data with the NWS and the community.

Weather Spotters

An important component to our Weather Warning Program is Weather Spotters. We are continuously adding to our Spotter Network, trained volunteers who act as our eyes and ears during hazardous weather.

We are seeking to establish spotters in each of our 17 forecast zones, including several in each village.

Amateur Radio

In 2006, NWS Anchorage established its amateur radio station, packet **frequencies 147.01 MHz** for the Eagle Node off the Mount Gordon Lyon repeater and **146.97 MHz** for the Valley Node off the Hatcher Pass repeater, and enjoy working with the American Radio Relay League.

Cooperative Observers Network

Co-op Observers have always been an important part of forecasting in Alaska. These volunteers take daily observations of temperature and precipitation as well as river levels and ice measurements.

New observers join each year, but we still need more to be able to reach our goal of one observer in every village and geographical area.

Need more information?

If you have any questions or interest in any of our services, outreach, or volunteer programs, please contact:

Sam Albanese
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Phone: 907-266-5117
Email: sam.albanese@noaa.gov

How to get our Forecasts

Internet: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov>

NOAA Weather Radio:

Weather information for areas in Alaska is broadcast continuously over NWR. Special receivers can be purchased which will pick up the warning alarm tone or Emergency Alert System (EAS) signal which is sent when a warning is issued from this office.

NOAA Weather Radio – 162.55 MHz

>>>Transmitters at:<<<

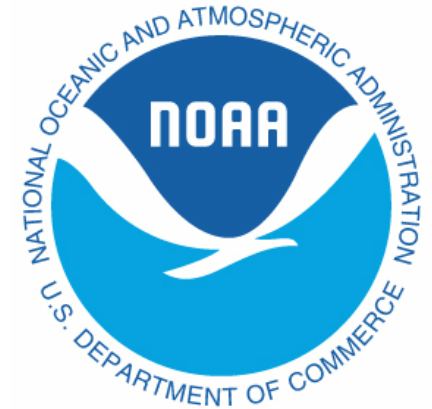
Anchorage: KEC43
Bethel: WNG675
Cold Bay: KJY87 (162.425MHz)
Cordova: WXJ79
Dillingham: WNG681(162.500MHz)
Homer: WXJ24
Kodiak: WXJ78
Saint Paul: KJY73 (162.525MHz)
Sand Point: WNG714
Seward: KEC81
Soldotna: WWG39
Unalaska: WXK89
Wasilla: KZZ98
Whittier: KXI29

Alaska Weather Information Line:

Forecasts issued by the National Weather Service for all of Alaska are available on the Alaska Weather Information Line. This is a menu system organized by regional areas of the state. For more information, visit our website.

To call the Alaska Info Weather Line:

In Anchorage: 266-5145
Statewide: 1-800-472-0391
(Toll-free in Alaska)



National Weather Service
Anchorage, Alaska

<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov>

6930 Sand Lake Road
Anchorage, AK 99502

Phone: 907-266-5105
Fax: 907-266-5188

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent water, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

Forecast Area and Responsibilities

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Anchorage oversees the southern third of Alaska. The northern boundary of our region begins at the eastern and central Alaska Range and Kuskokwim Mountains as well as the Lower Yukon River, and extends south to the Southern Gulf of Alaska, east to the Canadian border, and West to the Western Aleutians.

Our area of responsibility totals nearly 1,038,710 square miles. This vast region encompasses an estimated 33% of the Nations coastlines.

Weather data from observing systems such as radar, surface, satellite, and upper air balloons are collected many times a day and are processed and distributed to each NWS forecast office. NWS staff then uses this data in concert with computer models to prepare forecasts that are used by people throughout Alaska.



An Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) Weather Station (Courtesy of NOAA)

Forecast Services

NWS Anchorage has several programs that are provided to assist the public including maritime, aviation, and emergency management interests and provide appropriate warnings as needed.

Aviation

NWS Anchorage is responsible for Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) of cloud ceilings, visibility, and winds for 17 airports within our forecast region. TAFs are used by pilots and flight operations officials.

Public

When hazardous weather conditions are expected for Southcentral or Western Alaska, our office issues watches, warnings and advisories. A variety of severe weather impacts Southcentral and Western Alaska residents, such as strong winds, blizzards, extreme wind chills, heavy snowfalls, freezing rain, and coastal floods. In addition to these hazardous weather products, twice each day we issue seven-day forecasts for our 17 public zones. These forecasts include temperature, cloud cover, precipitation probability, and winds.

Marine

Marine forecasts are specifically tailored to the maritime interests of Alaska. Warnings and advisories are issued for wind speeds and sea state. NWS Anchorage issues forecasts of wind speed/direction as well as wave height for 22 marine zones twice a day. These forecasts extend out to five days.



Rough Seas (Courtesy of NOAA)

Fire Weather

During fire season (May-August), NWS Anchorage is responsible for issuing 12 fire weather zone forecasts twice a day. These forecasts are used by fire management authorities in assessing fire threat. The fire program is also responsible for the issuance of fire weather watches and red flag warnings when extreme fire weather conditions are expected.



Alaskan Wildland Fire (Courtesy of Alaska Fire Services)

Hydrology

NWS Anchorage, in coordination with the Alaska River Forecast Center (RFC) in Anchorage, is responsible for issuing flood watches, warnings, and advisories for flooding due to heavy rain events, snow and glacier runoff, and ice jams. In addition, our service hydrologist and technicians are responsible for maintaining river gages in our forecast area as well as conducting damage surveys when flooding occurs.



Big Eddy Flooding (Courtesy of AK RFC)