

Don't Fry! Protect Yourself from the Dangers of the Sun

By: Kimberly McMahon, Public Weather Services Program Manager

Each year, the National Weather Service works with the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention to promote “Don't Fry Day” on the Friday before Memorial Day, with this year's observance occurring on May 24, 2024. Don't Fry Day encourages everyone to protect their skin as they head outdoors and raises awareness about sun safety and skin cancer prevention leading into the summer. Sunburns not only increase your risk of skin cancer, they can also make you more susceptible to heat-related illness (heat exhaustion and heat stroke) and dehydration. Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States, resulting in over 1,220 fatalities each year.

For those interested in learning more or supporting this initiative, you can find a [comprehensive toolkit](#) that includes additional background information, as well as ready to use social media posts, infographics, talking points, and more. Don't Fry Day is an important day to [revisit key tips to stay safe and healthy in the sun](#), as well as a great opportunity to be reminded of overall heat safety.

Wherever your outdoor summer adventures take you, make sure to enjoy the sun and warm weather safely and protect yourself and your loved ones from skin cancer and heat-related illness.



Caption: The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention is raising awareness on skin cancer on “Don't Fry Day,” the Friday before Memorial Day. You can protect yourself and your loved ones by wearing sun protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses or by staying in the shade.

NWS Director, Director of Public Affairs, and Director of Congressional Affairs Visit WFO Charleston, SC

By: Brian Haines, Meteorologist-in-Charge at WFO Charleston



A group photo of Ken and John with the WFO CHS staff. Credit: Susan Buchanan.

From left to right: (Back row) Director **Ken Graham**, Lead Forecaster **Neil Dixon**, SOO **Carl Barnes**. (Center Row) WCM **Ron Morales**, Lead Forecaster **Douglas Berry**, MIC **Brian Haines**, Forecaster **Jonathan Lamb**, ESA **Arthur Patrick**, Director Congressional Affairs **John Sokich**, and OPL **Dwight Koehn**. (Front Row) Forecasters **Courtney Maskell** and **Brittany MacNamara**.

On April 19, the annual Georgia Emergency Management (GEMA) meeting took place in Savannah, GA. Similar to past GEMA conferences, the National Weather Service had a strong presence, including staff from numerous WFOs, regional and national headquarters, and national centers. Many members of NWS Leadership also attended, including NWS Director Ken Graham and Director of NWS Congressional Affairs John Sokich. Given that the conference was held in Savannah, GA, within the area of responsibility of WFO Charleston, SC (CHS), Ken and John took the opportunity to visit the office after the conference. Ken and John also met up with Susan Buchanan, the Director of NWS Public Affairs, for their office visit.

Ken, John, and Susan arrived early in the morning to start their visit. Ken immediately jumped in and helped a WFO CHS forecaster with a 12z balloon launch, streaming the launch on Facebook Live. Afterwards, Ken, John, and Susan had an informal discussion with the operations staff on the vision of the NWS.

The CHS staff appreciated everyone's high energy and willingness to stop by the office and answer any questions. The six dozen Krispy Kreme donuts were also very much appreciated!



From left to right: Director **Ken Graham** interviewing WFO CHS forecaster **Brittany MacNamara** during a Facebook Live event. Lead Forecaster **Neil Dixon** ran the Facebook Live event with the office cell phone. Photo credit: **Susan Buchanan**

NWS Glasgow Collaborates with Fort Peck USACE Rangers to Design and Post QR Code Plates

By: NWS Staff



NWS WFO Glasgow, Montana, Meteorologist **Angel Enriquez** and Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Scott Rozanski** spent the day with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Rangers on May 5. The meeting was to conduct the first round of posting weather related QR Code plates at popular tourist locations along the Fort Peck Lake lakeshore. Angel collaborated with USACE Rangers to ensure critical forecast information was readily available to the hundreds of visitors exploring the vast lands surrounding Fort Peck Lake each year.

Fort Peck Lake has 27 recreation areas which can be utilized for camping, boating and fishing, hunting, sight-seeing, biking, hiking, photography, and wildlife viewing. Many of the routes to these locations are gravel roads, which can become impassable during times of significant rainfall, making QR Code placement a necessity for visitors. NWS offices are always encouraged to engage with their Core Partners in state and national parks to ensure they know how to access NWS forecasts on existing web pages and suggest how forecasts can be communicated to their park visitors. Park staff can use QR codes on signs to direct visitors to the appropriate NWS webpages.

Over a period of about two weeks, Angel and Scott collaborated with the USACE concerning the creation and design of the QR Code plates. In the end, USACE Rangers helped decide the most popular boat ramps and tourist spots along the lakeshore to place the weather-related codes. The plates were linked to an existing NWS Glasgow “point-and-click” web page providing point specific weather forecasts for that area. Conversations with USACE Rangers indicated that the QR Code plates would help serve the many visitors coming to enjoy the region.

This truly is a successful example of the NWS in Glasgow meeting partners “eye-to-eye”.



From left to right: USACE Ranger Cindee Parker and meteorologist Angel Enriquez posting a QR Code plate at a Fort Peck Lake boat ramp.

NWS Seattle Visits the 1st Weather Squadron and Fire Managers at Joint Base Lewis McChord

By: NWS Staff

NWS Seattle meteorologist **Maddie Kristell** organized a trip to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) in late April to visit the 1st Weather Squadron in response to the squadron visiting WFO Seattle in January. Meteorologist and marine program focal point **Sam Borth**, as well as lead forecaster and new fire weather team member **Anna Lindeman**, joined to offer their perspectives and help forge a new relationship with the squadron.



Historically, there has been little to no coordination between the WFO and the 1st Weather Squadron due to turnover and a lack of knowledge about the scope of each other’s roles. However, with the introduction of Slack and a newfound understanding of the military assets that the 1st Weather Squadron is in charge of protecting at JBLM, a new cooperative effort is being developed between the two to provide more lead time ahead of wind storms, freezing rain, hail, and heavy snow. The Squadron also expressed the need for additional marine related training and resources, paving the way for NWS Seattle personnel to host marine based training for the Squadron.

A visit was also paid to the forest ecology and fire management team at JBLM, who is WFO Seattle’s most frequent spot forecast customer for their prescribed burning operations. Discussions over their burning thresholds and how to tailor the spot forecasts to suit their needs were held, and NWS Seattle has been invited to prescribed burning operations in late June to see the process from start to finish. NWS Seattle appreciates the warm welcome from JBLM and are eager to foster this new relationship!



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