



Definitions of Heat Alerts

National Weather Service Heat Wave Program in Wisconsin

Outlook Statement

Issued daily to highlight potential hazardous weather in the next 1 to 7 days. Periods when Heat Index will equal or exceed 95 are mentioned (could lead to Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Warning conditions). Issued as a Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO). Broadcasted on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, and posted on NWS web sites (www.weather.gov).

Heat Advisory

Issued 6 to 36 hours in advance of a daytime period in which daytime heat index (HI)* values of 100 degrees or more are expected. Additionally, if daytime HI values are expected to be 95 to 99 degrees for four consecutive days or more an Advisory should be issued.

Excessive Heat Watch

Issued generally 12 to 48 hours in advance if Excessive Heat Warning conditions are expected.

Heat Wave

A period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot, and unusually humid weather. Typically a heat wave lasts two or more days.

Excessive Heat Warning

Issued 6 to 36 hours in advance of any occurrence of a 48-hour period in which daytime heat index (HI) values are expected to be 105 degrees or higher and nighttime HI values will be 75 degrees or higher for a 48 hour period. Additionally, if four consecutive days of daytime HI values of 100 or higher are expected, an Excessive Heat Warning will be issued.**

*The Heat Index (HI) or the "Apparent Temperature" is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the Relative Humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature.

**For additional information about heat awareness, contact your local public health department, county emergency management director, or the National Weather Service.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Public Health

Climate and Health Program

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