



Winter/Spring 2026

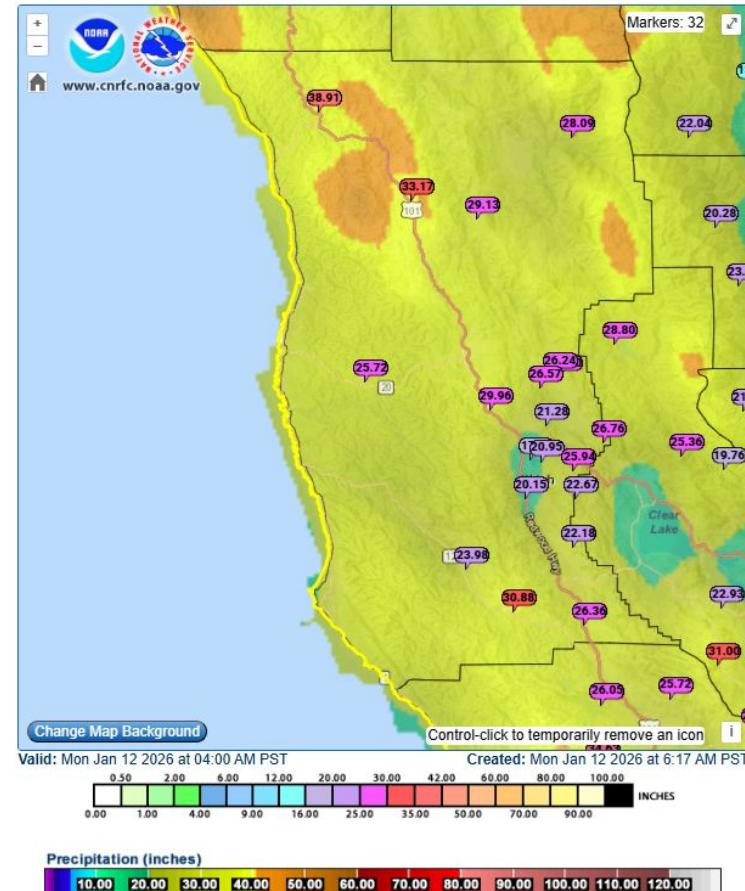
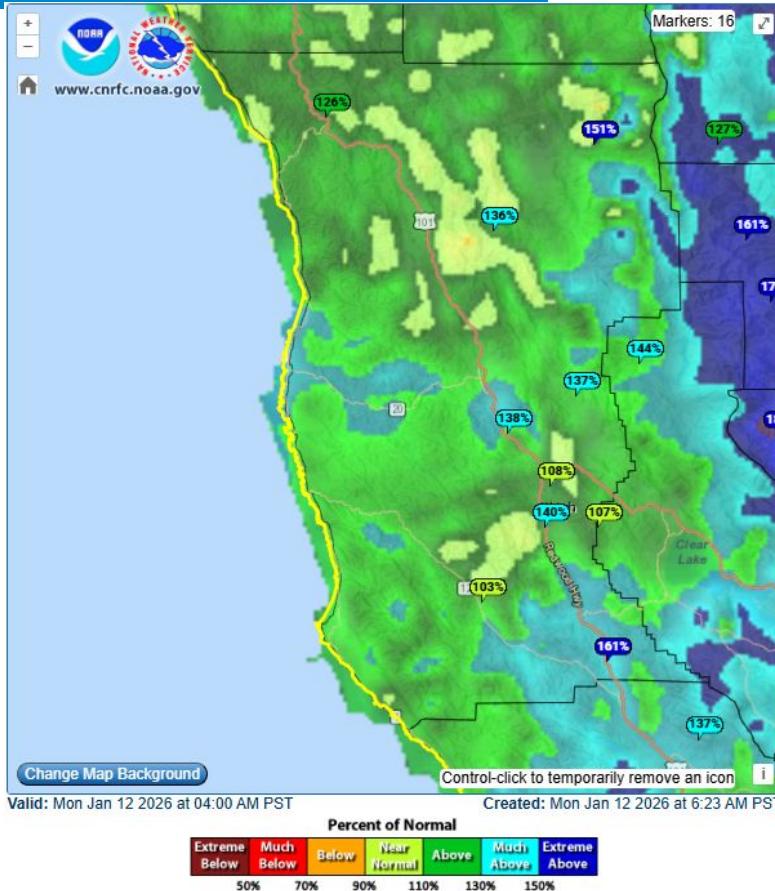
Mendocino County

Ryan Aylward - Warning Coordination Meteorologist

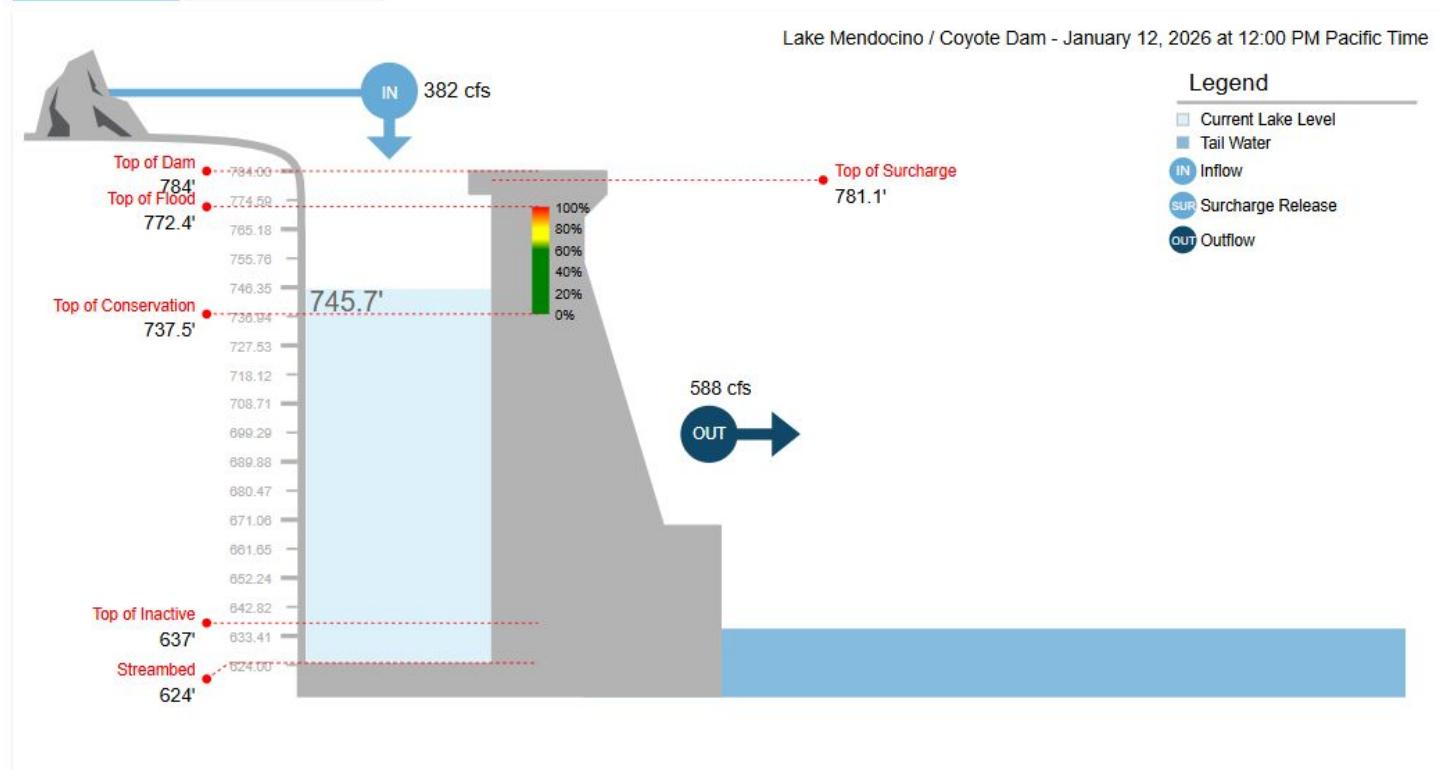
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Eureka National Weather Service



Rainfall Since October 1st



Lake Mendocino - from the Army Corp

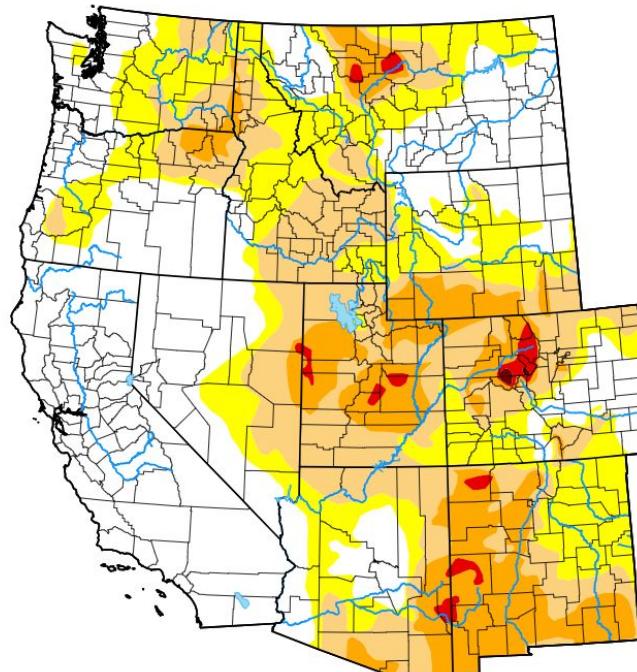


<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/spn/locations/lake%20mendocino>

Drought Monitor

West

[Home](#) / West



Map released: Thurs. January 8, 2026

Data valid: January 6, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

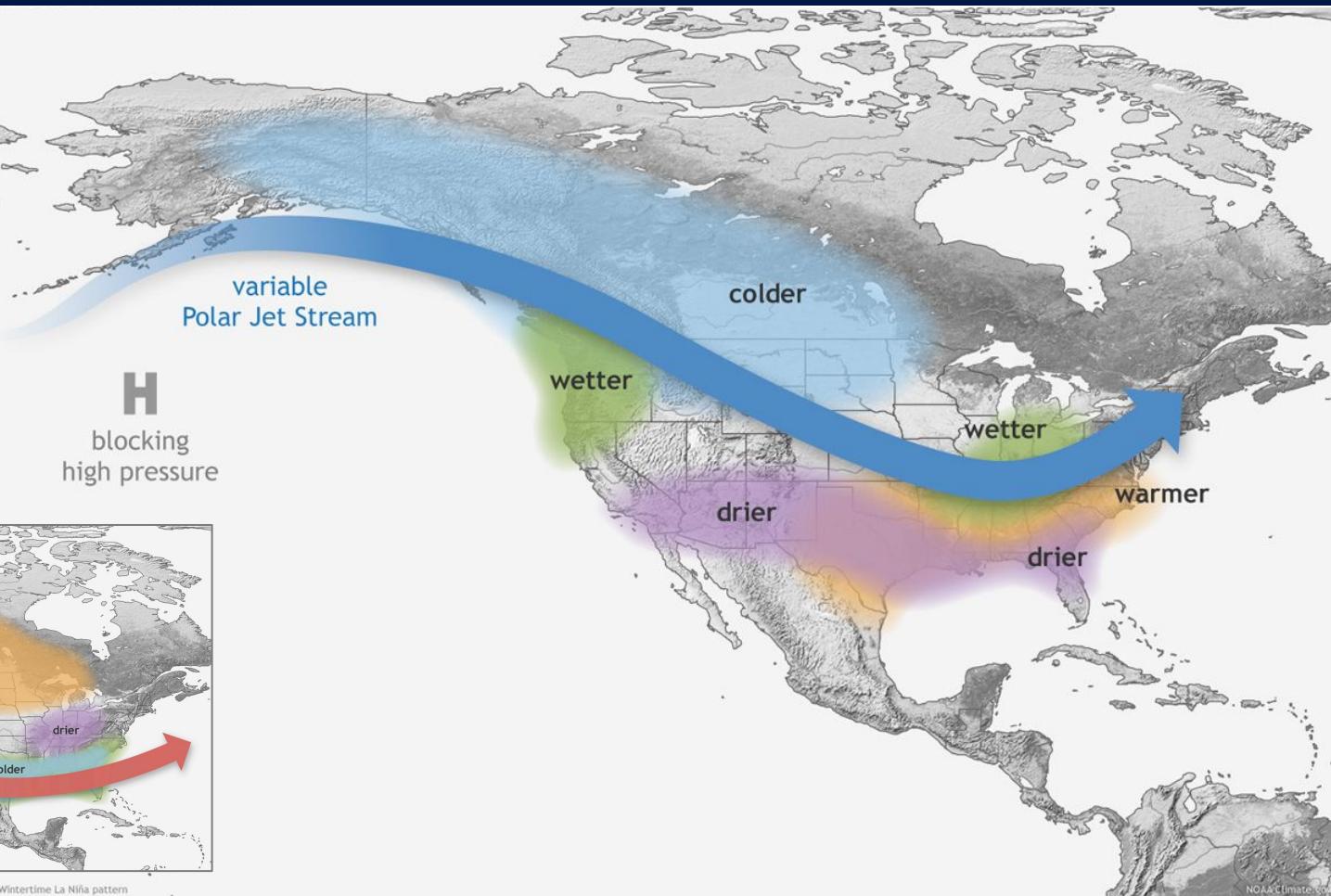
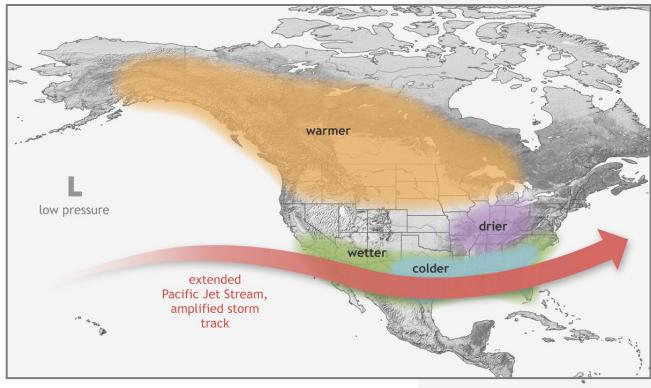
[Brian Fuchs](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Tsegaye Tadesse](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

La Niña is favored for Winter 2025-2026

Typical Wintertime
La Niña Impacts



January Through March Outlook



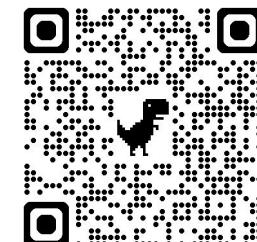
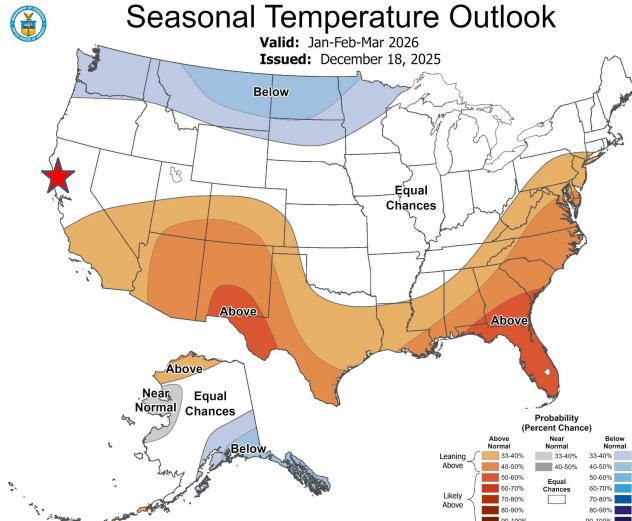
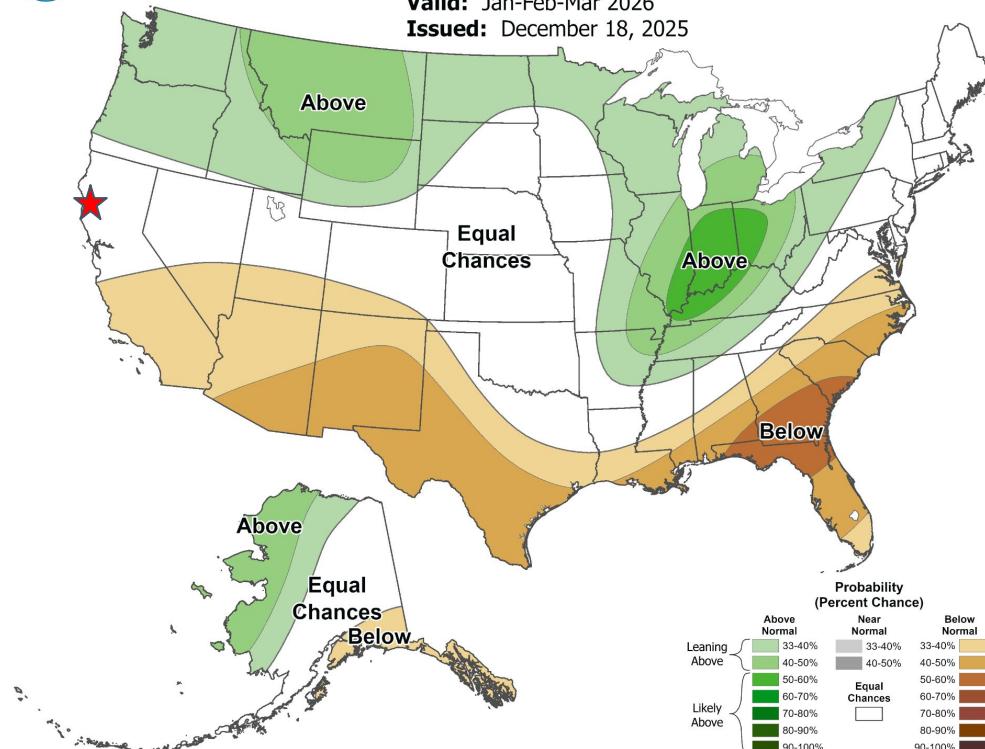
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



April Through June Outlook



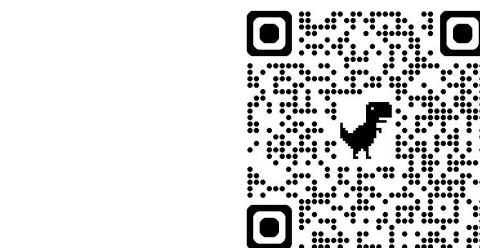
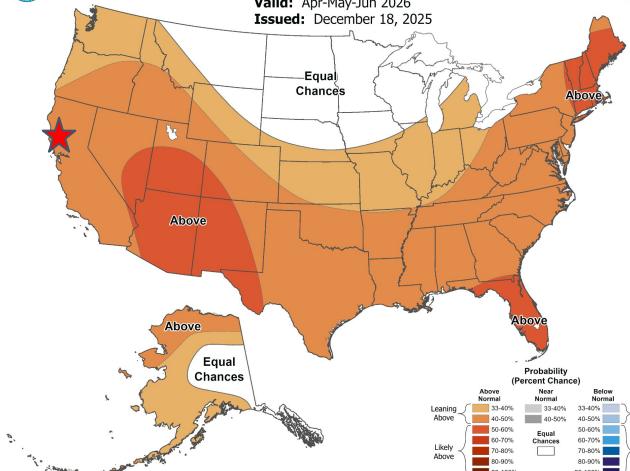
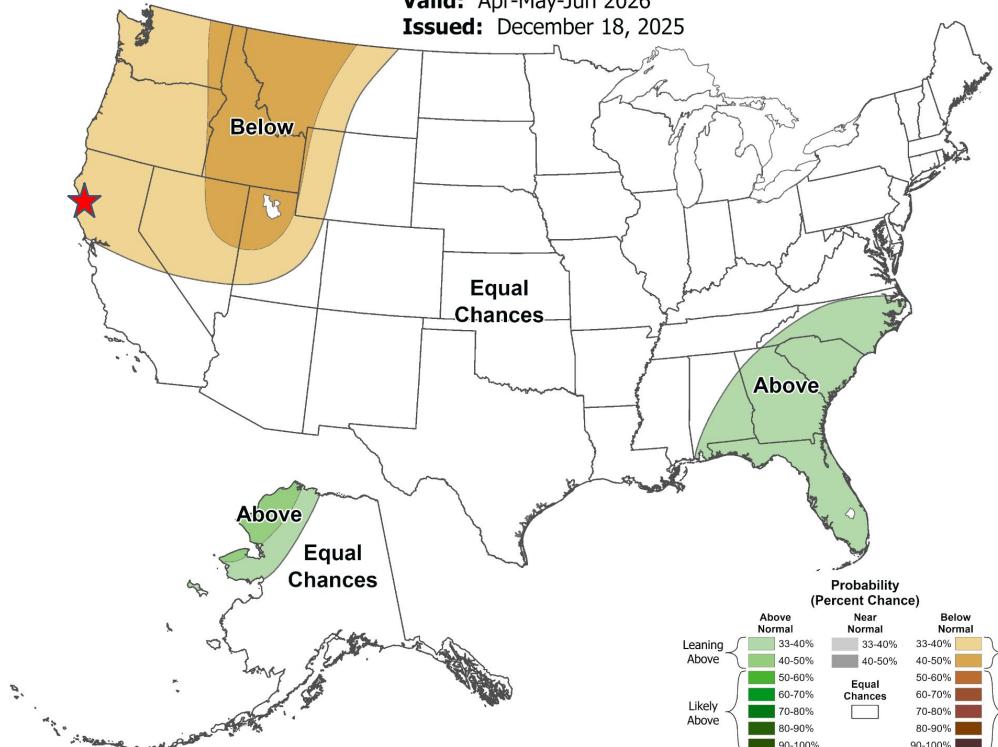
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025

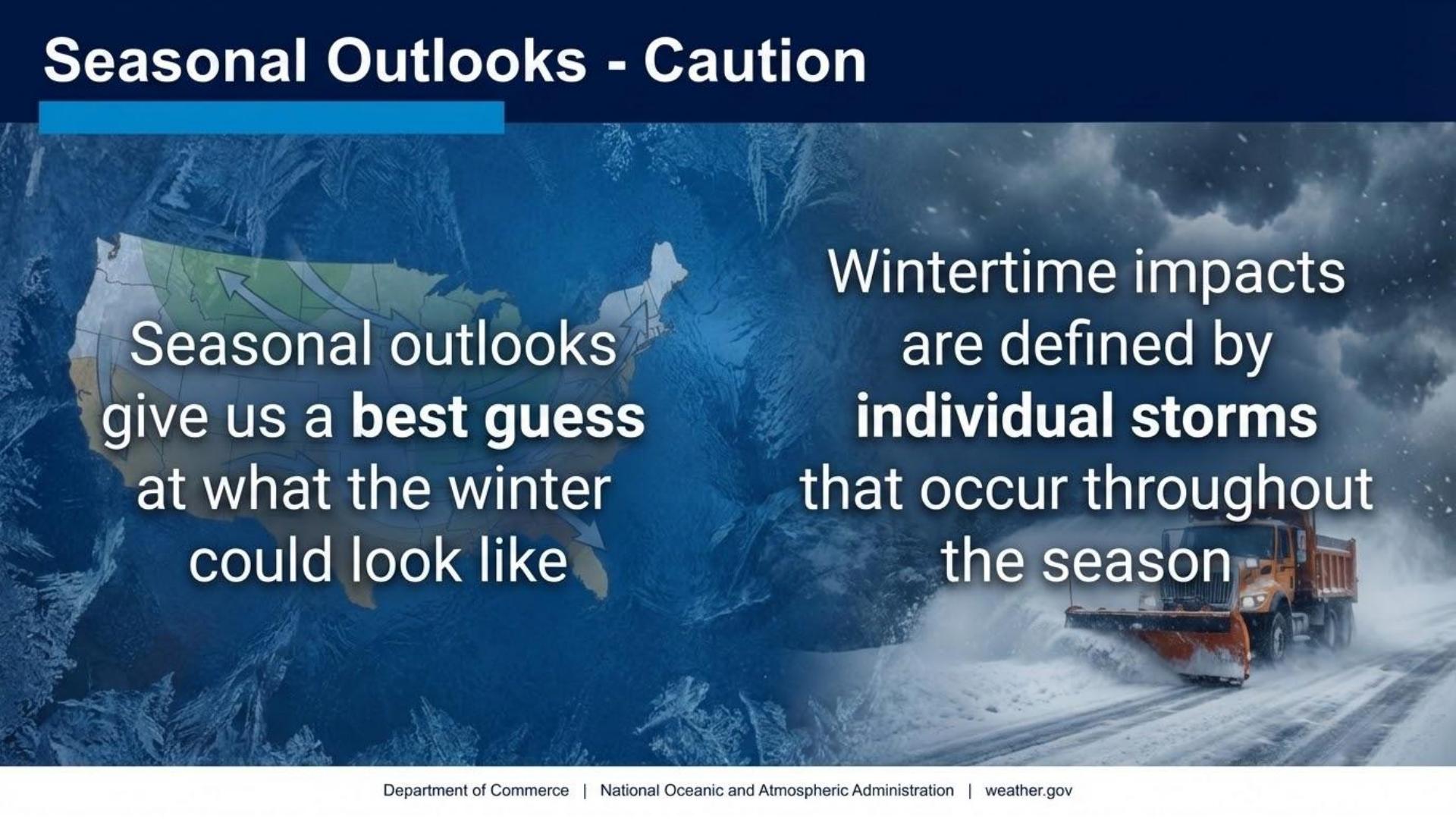


Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Seasonal Outlooks - Caution



Seasonal outlooks give us a **best guess** at what the winter could look like

Wintertime impacts are defined by **individual storms** that occur throughout the season





Search the CPC

NCEP Quarterly Newsletter**Climate-Weather**
El Niño/La Niña
MJO
Blocking
AAO, AO, NAO, PNA
Climatology
Global Monsoons**Expert Assessments**
Index Products**Outlooks (Forecasts)**
Index Products
Verification**Monitoring and Data**
Index Products**Crosscutting Themes**
Ocean Climate
Stratosphere
Pacific Islands
International Desks**Partnerships**
Climate.gov
Climate Test Bed
NOAA Interagency
JAWF
USAID
Alaska
Others**Outreach**
Educational Climate Glossary[Home](#)[DOC](#)[NOAA](#)[NWS](#)[NCEP Centers:](#)[Site Map](#)[AWC](#)[CPC](#)[News](#)[EMC](#)[NCO](#)[NHC](#)[OPC](#)[Organization](#)[SPC](#)[SWPC](#)[WPC](#)

Climate News

- **La Niña persists, followed by a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral during January–March 2026. ENSO-neutral is likely through at least Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026 (8 Jan 2026)**
- **Updated NOAA 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook (7 Aug 2025)**

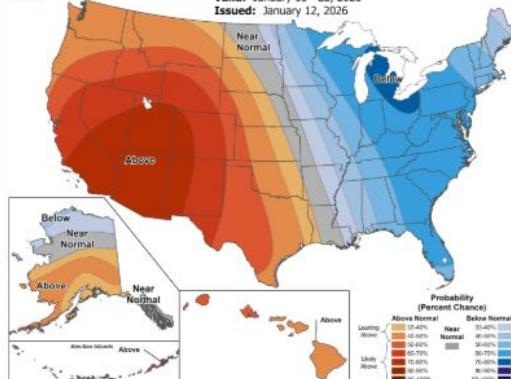
Click on product title to go to product page. Move cursor over product parameter name to display the graphic -- click to enlarge. Links to these same products are also available below.

[6-10 Day Outlook \(Interactive\)](#)[Temperature](#)[Precipitation](#)[One Month Outlook \(Interactive\)](#)[Temperature](#)[Precipitation](#)[8-14 Day Outlook \(Interactive\)](#)[Temperature](#)[Precipitation](#)[Three Month Outlook \(Interactive\)](#)[Temperature](#)[Precipitation](#)[Week 3-4 Outlooks](#)[Temperature](#)[Precipitation](#)[Composite](#)[8-14 Day U.S. Hazards Outlook](#)[Probabilistic: Temp](#)[Precip](#)[Snow](#)[Wind](#)[U.S. Drought Information](#)[Monitor](#)[Monthly Outlook](#)[Seasonal Outlook](#)[Global Tropics Hazards Outlook](#)[Weeks 2 and 3](#)

6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 18 - 22, 2026

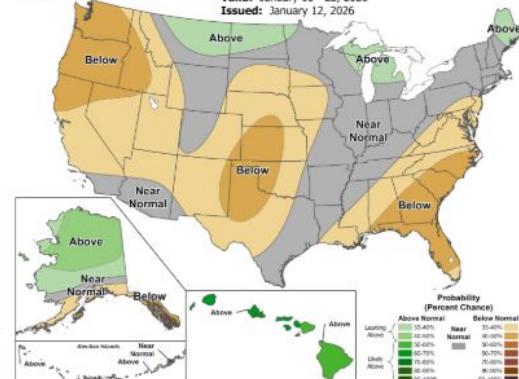
Issued: January 12, 2026



6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: January 18 - 22, 2026

Issued: January 12, 2026



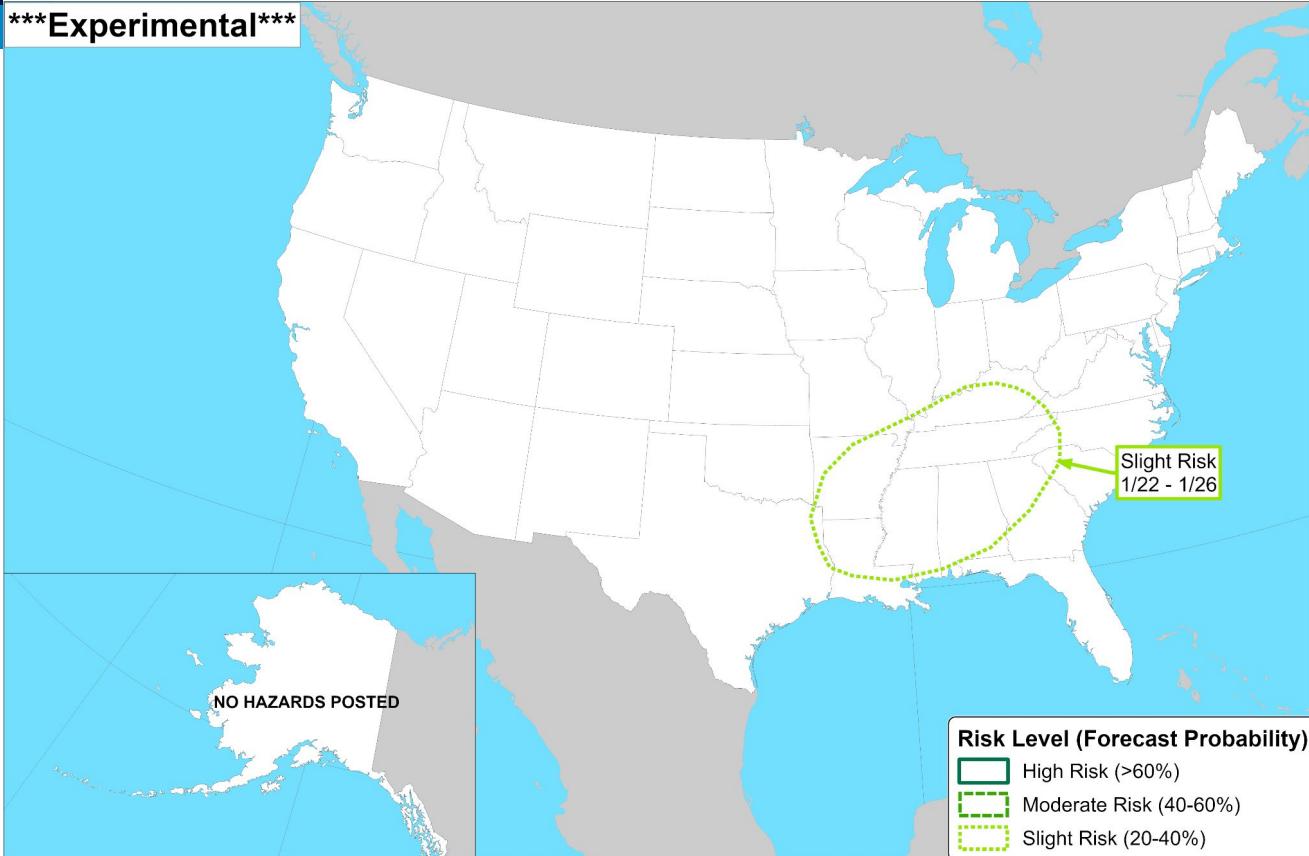


Risk of Heavy Precipitation

Valid: January 20 - 26, 2026



Experimental



Climate Prediction Center

Released: January 12, 2026 3:00 PM EST

Follow us: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

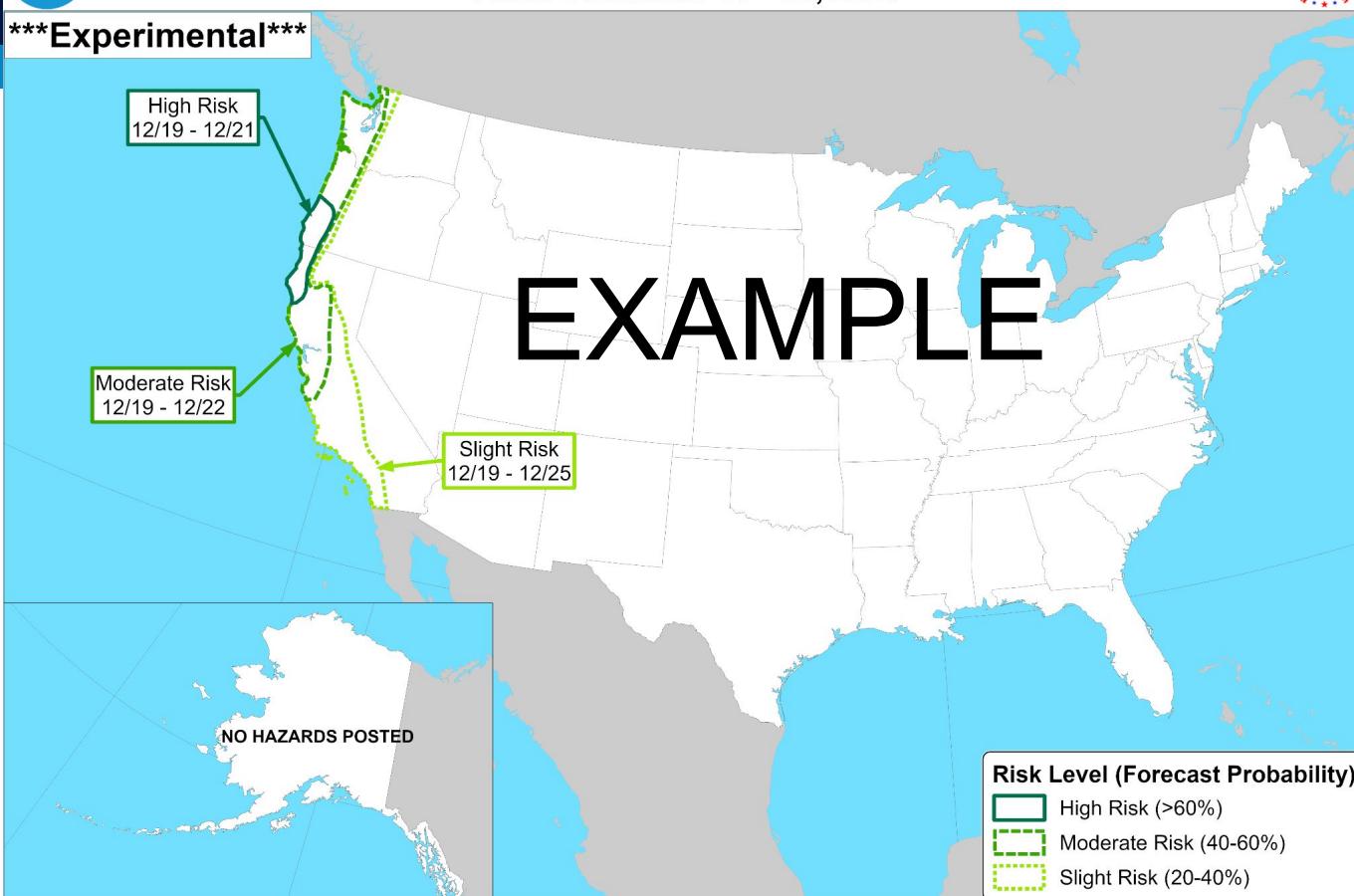


Risk of Heavy Precipitation

Valid: December 19 - 25, 2025



Experimental



Climate Prediction Center

Released: December 11, 2025 3:00 PM EST

Follow us:

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Small Hail - Slow Down!

Courtesy of Del Norte Triplicate

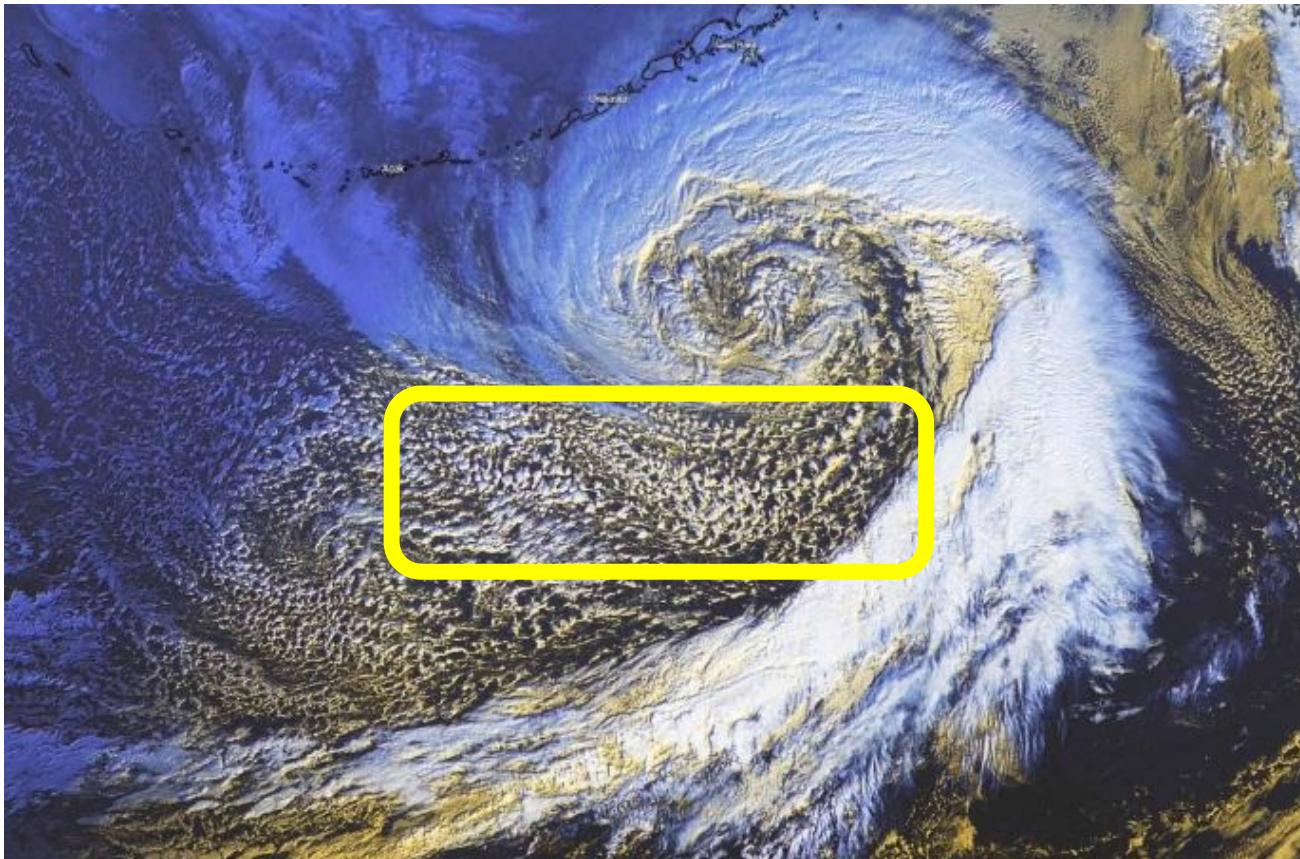
DRIVING ON A HAIL COVERED ROAD:

- ▶ Ease off the gas pedal
- ▶ Do not slam on the brakes
- ▶ Avoid overcorrecting

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WEATHER.GOV • DOT.CA.GOV • CHP.CA.GOV

For the most current road information on all California State highways, please call 1-800-427-7623 (1-800-GAS-ROAD)

Small Hail Producing Storm

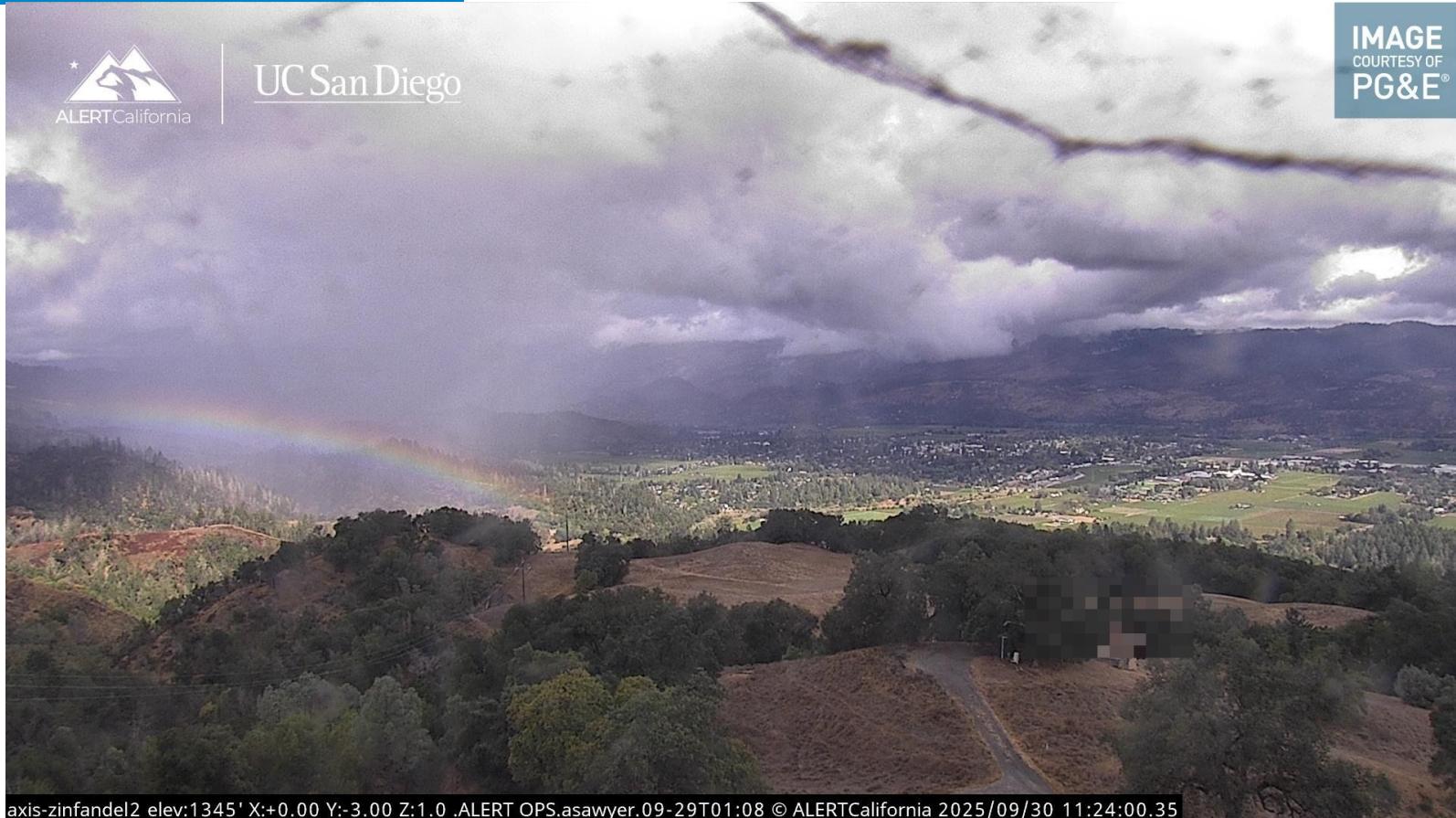


What a Small Hail Shower May Look Like:



UC San Diego

IMAGE
COURTESY OF
PG&E®



Warning Vs Advisory Vs Watch

READY

SET

GO

Outlook or Partner Email

Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days

Could pose a threat to life and property

Prepare a Plan of Action

Watch

Risk of weather hazard in the next 2-5 days

Timing and details still uncertain

Could pose a threat to life and property

Have a Plan of Action



Advisory

Weather hazard is imminent or occurring

Could cause significant inconvenience

Use Caution



Warning

Weather hazard is imminent or occurring

Weather hazard poses a threat to life/property

Take Protective Action



Winter Weather Product Criteria

**Winter Storm Warning
(WSWEKA) WS.W**
GHG/Hazard Services

Issued when the following conditions, or any combination of these conditions are forecast within 36 hours or occurring:

- For heavy snow

- Below 1,500 feet ASL:** ≥ 2 inches of snow
- Above 1,500 feet to 3,000 ASL:** ≥ 5 inches of snow
- Above 3000 feet ASL in Trinity County only:** ≥ 8 inches of snow

NOTE: *Issuance of warnings for heavy snow should be based on the midpoint value of the forecast accumulation range. E.g., if 4 to 6 inches is forecast, the mid-range value is 5 inches.*

- For sleet

Sleet accumulations $\geq 1/2$ inch.

Winter Weather Product Criteria

Issued when the following conditions, or any combination of these conditions are forecast within 36 hours or occurring:

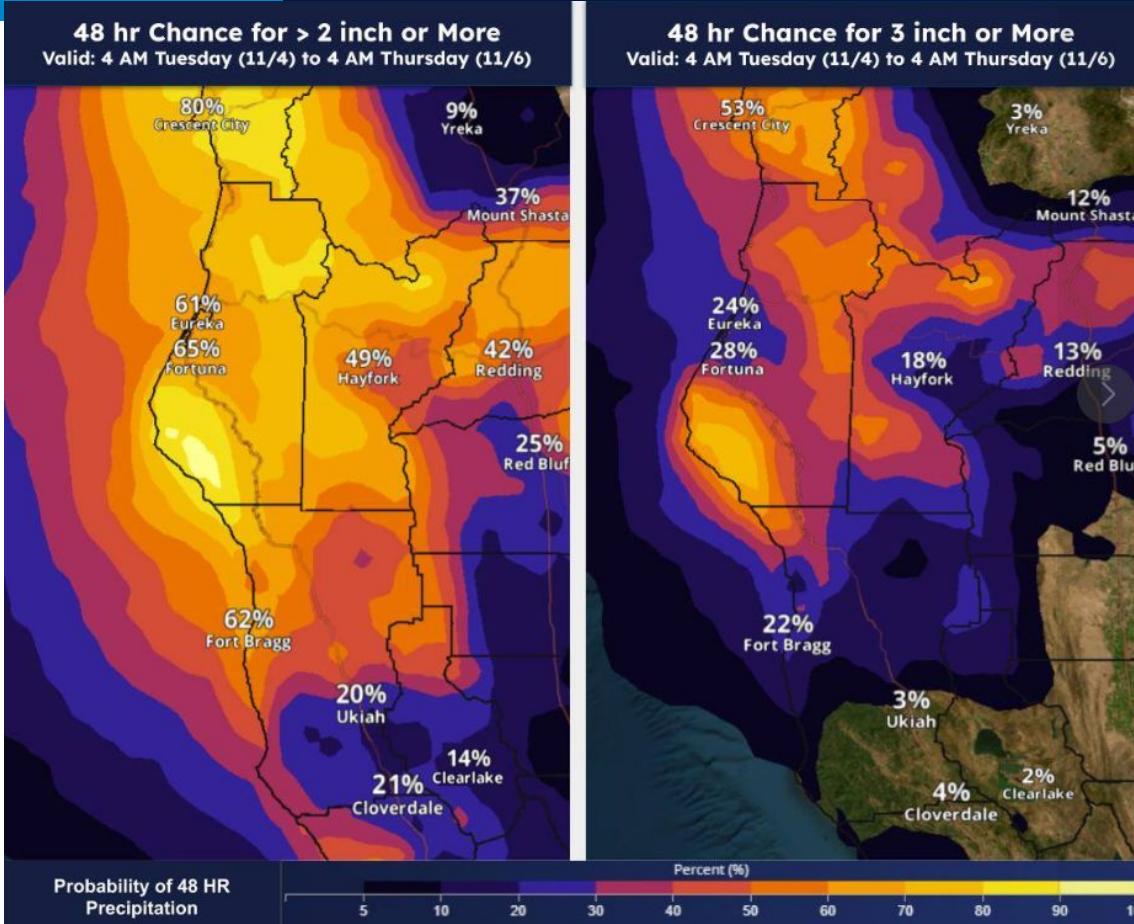
- **For snow**
 - **Below 1,500 feet ASL:** Trace to 1.5 inches of snow
 - **Above 1,500 feet to 3,000 ASL:** 2 to 4.5 inches of snow
 - **Above 3000 feet ASL in Trinity County only:** 4 to 7.5 inches of snow
- **Expected or ongoing impacts** caused by continued precipitation on the travel corridors, such as chain requirements.

NOTE: Issuance of advisories for snow should be based on the midpoint value of the forecast accumulation range. E.g., if 3 to 5 inches is forecast, the mid-range value is 4 inches.

**Winter Weather Advisory
(WSWEKA) WW.Y**
GHG/Hazard Services

- **For snow and blowing snow**
 - Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 25 to 34 mph (22 to 30 kt), accompanied by falling and blowing snow that is occasionally reducing visibilities to $\leq 1/4$ mile for 3 hours or more.
- **For blowing snow**
 - When widespread or localized blowing snow reduces visibilities to $\leq 1/4$ mile -
- **For sleet**
 - Sleet accumulations $< 1/2$ inch.
- **For small hail showers**
 - Scattered to numerous hail showers, resulting in accumulation, forecast in populated areas not already under an advisory for snow.
 - Forecasting emphasis will be placed on events with sufficiently low snow levels to allow for accumulation (< 1500 feet), as well as echo training or slow storm motion.

Reminder About Probability Forecasts





Questions?