

What Is Your Area at Risk For? What Are the Odds?

This year for National Preparedness Month at least define what in your area puts you at risk.

Yep another year has passed and we are looking at another **National Preparedness Month (NPM)**. It was first sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2004. Its purpose is to encourage American citizens to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools and communities and is but one part of a governmental effort to strengthen the United States' preparedness capabilities.

The national preparedness architecture encompasses prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts to prepare the United States for all hazards – whether terrorist attack, human caused or natural disaster. It is funded through various annual “budget bills”, such as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), as well as from the Department of Justice and Department of the Interior, to name a few.

Each year there is a different theme to try and get people involved. This year (2015) it's: **Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.**

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!



For what it's worth, the government's primary site for National Preparedness is at <http://www.ready.gov/>

What are the various risks and hazards that we might see? Or in essence, what are the odds of various things occurring where we live?

Obviously there are some areas more prone to certain types of risks, hazards or crises than other areas.

The “Ring of Fire” around the Pacific Ocean is more likely to see volcanoes and earthquakes, as well as Tsunamis. The desert southwest is more prone to drought, flash floods and dust/wind storms. We all know about the central US and central-southeast states and their potential for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms with straight line and micro/macro wind bursts. The Eastern coastal areas (Atlantic and Gulf), and to a lesser extent the west coast, are known for their hurricane and tropical storm

potential and storm surge. The Great Lake states are known for Nor'easters and Lake Affect severe storms, both snow and thunderstorms. While other states are known for sink holes and others still for wildfires and landslides.

What crises are we most likely to be a close part of during our lifetimes?

- ✓ **Fire**, to our home with us home or not, or to our schools, stores or work places and wild/forest/brush fires.
- ✓ **Crime**, home invasion, burglary, while home or not, or to someone in our household while out and about.
- ✓ **Illness or Injury** to a member of our household.
- ✓ **Personal Financial Crisis** of some sort to a member of our household.

Hence, it goes without saying that the **first step to ANY preparedness plan is to figure out just what your area is most vulnerable to.**

Now there are some places that can give you “quick views” or “dashboards” and such to keep you posted on these types of hazards, including the National Weather Service’s Weather Radio. Some even offer text and email messaging of alerts and warnings. **A good rule of thumb is to utilize multiple information and notification sources.**

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **National Weather Service (NWS)** @ <http://www.weather.gov/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)** @ <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>
- **The Earth Observatory Global Maps:** @ <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/GlobalMaps/> National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Earth Observatory is part of the EOS Project Science Office located at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, tracks things like ambient air and ocean temperatures, the ozone layer and such.
- **The Disaster Center** @ <http://www.disastercenter.com/> The Disaster Center provides online coverage of disasters in the United States, compiling and providing links to disaster related statistics and studies, on all kinds of natural and human-caused disaster threats.
- **Nature's Fury** @ <http://www.naturesfury.net/> NaturesFury.net is a premier Internet source for natural disaster preparedness and research, education, alerts, warnings and other resources and news.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC)** @ <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
- **Space Weather** @ <http://www.spaceweather.com/> News and Information about the Sun-Earth Environment
- **GlobalIncidentMap.com** @ www.globalincidentmap.com Tracks And Maps Terrorism Incidents And Other Suspicious Activity, Hazmat Situations, Amber Alerts, Gang Activity, Major Drug Interdictions, H1N1 Swine Flu, Plane Crashes, Threats To The President/White House, Forest Fires, etc.. For a fee and subscription to the site, you can receive full map details, alerts and warnings.

Other sites will deal with particular types of crises, like crime, invasive species or crop blights.

- **US Invasive Species (all)** http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/invasive_species.shtml
- **US Invasive Plant Atlas** <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>
- **US Aquatic Invasive Species** <http://www.fws.gov/Fisheries/ANS/>
- **National Invasive Species Information Center Aquatic** <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/main.shtml>
- **National Invasive Species Information Center Plants** <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>
- **National Invasive Species Information Center Animals** <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/main.shtml>

- **National Invasive Species** Information Center **Microbes**
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/microbes/main.shtml>
- **National Invasive Species** Information Center **State Resources**
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/state.shtml>
- **US Crime Statistics** (includes terrorism) <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats>
- **US Crime Statistics by State and City** <http://www.cityrating.com/crime-statistics/>
- **US Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics** <http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>
- **National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)** <http://www.dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system>

Keep in mind most crises are not like hurricanes where you have days to prepare, **the average "Crisis" won't give you much more than a 15 minute notice!** Hence the need to *Be Prepared no matter where you are.*

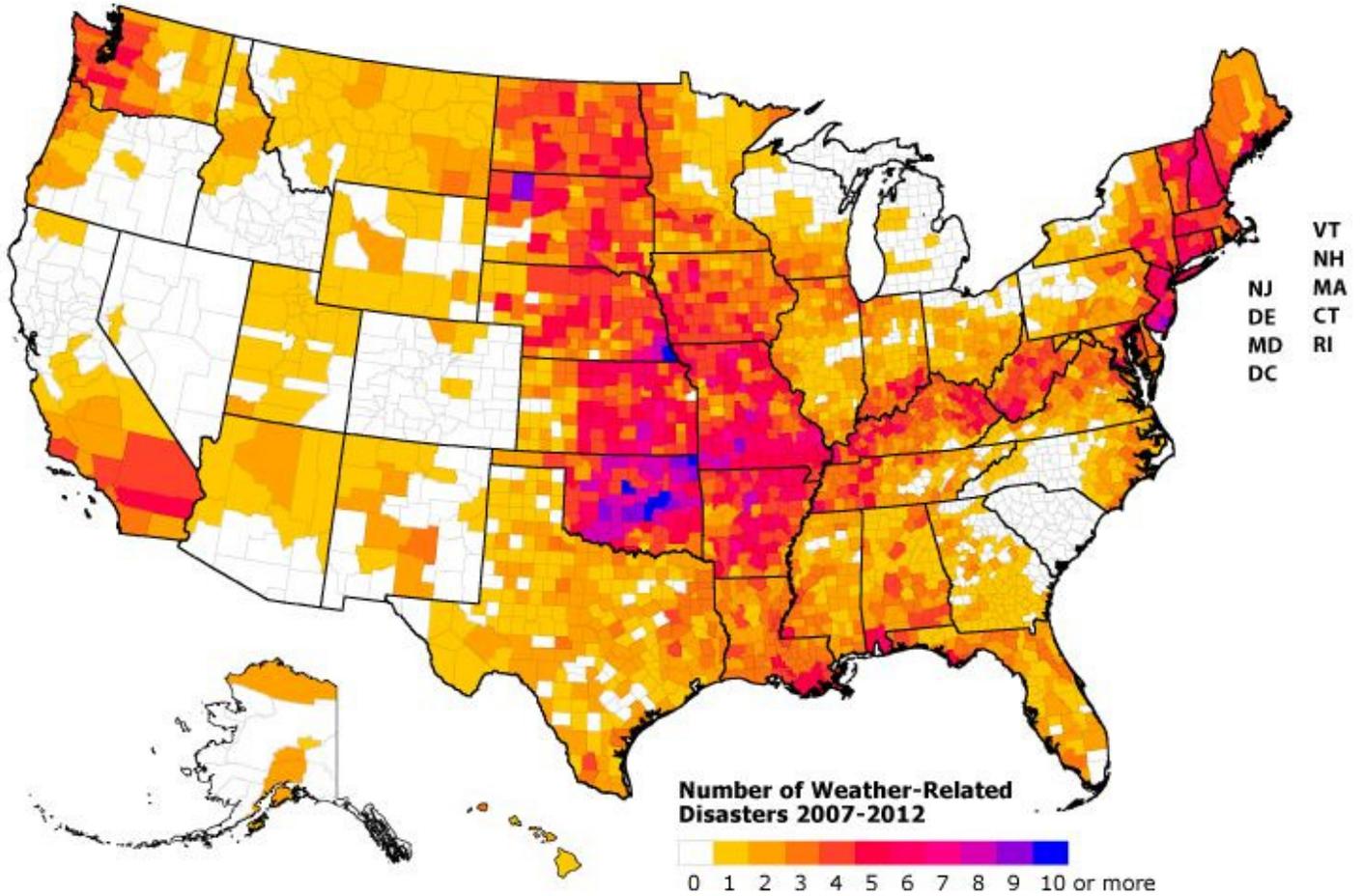
On top of that, governments are so bureaucratic and hence cumbersome, that getting help quickly is a bit of a stretch. In the US, it's a wonder that organized help arrives within 5 days, yet alone 3!

Which are other reasons why I prefer a *Needs Based* Preparedness Plan vs a *Crisis Based* Preparedness Plan. If you want more info on this see *Building a Needs Based Preparedness Plan vs a Crisis Based Plan @*

http://formernymurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/building_a_needs_based_preparedness_plan_vs_a_crisis_based_plan_complete.pdf

So if you do nothing else for preparedness this month, at least find out what your area is at risk for and make some contingency plans to hold you and yours safely through at least 5-7 days without governmental or outside organized help.

The map below shows what kind of weather crises have hit the US from 2007-2012.

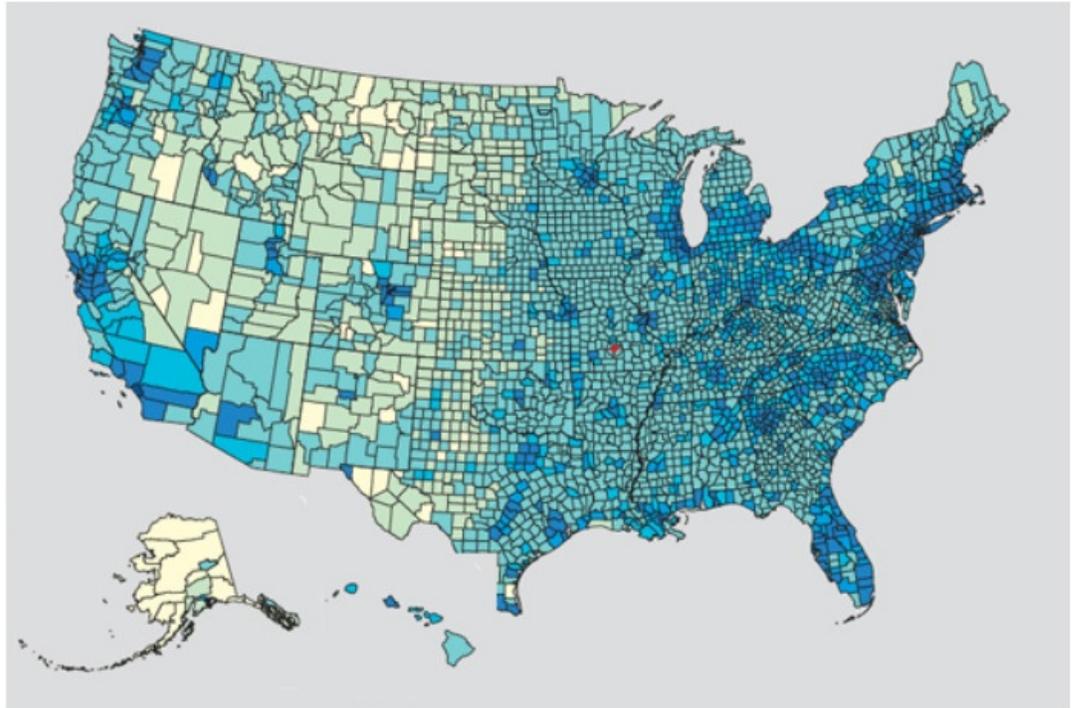


<https://www.globaldatavault.com/company/disaster-maps/>

This map uses the 2010 Census to plot the population density of the US and where that sits next to nuclear facilities. *Note: Areas that are more densely populated are more vulnerable to crises, especially ones that can take out the public safety and or technology of the area.*

US Population Density Map (2010 Census)

People per Square Mile
by County



US Natural Disaster Risk, Population Density and Nuclear Facilities-US Population Density Map (2010 Census) Jun 25 2012

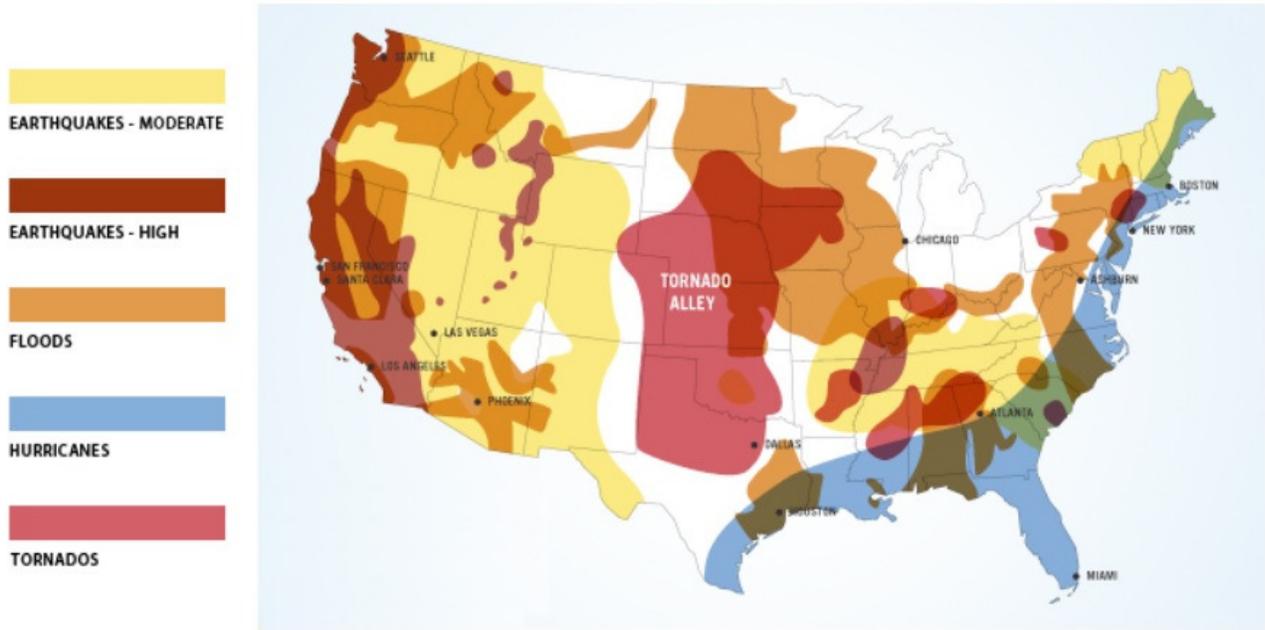
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

PDF http://www.crisishq.com/files/2010_Profile_Map_United_States.pdf

The following maps will give you an idea of what areas are prone to what kind of crisis.

Formerly NM Urban

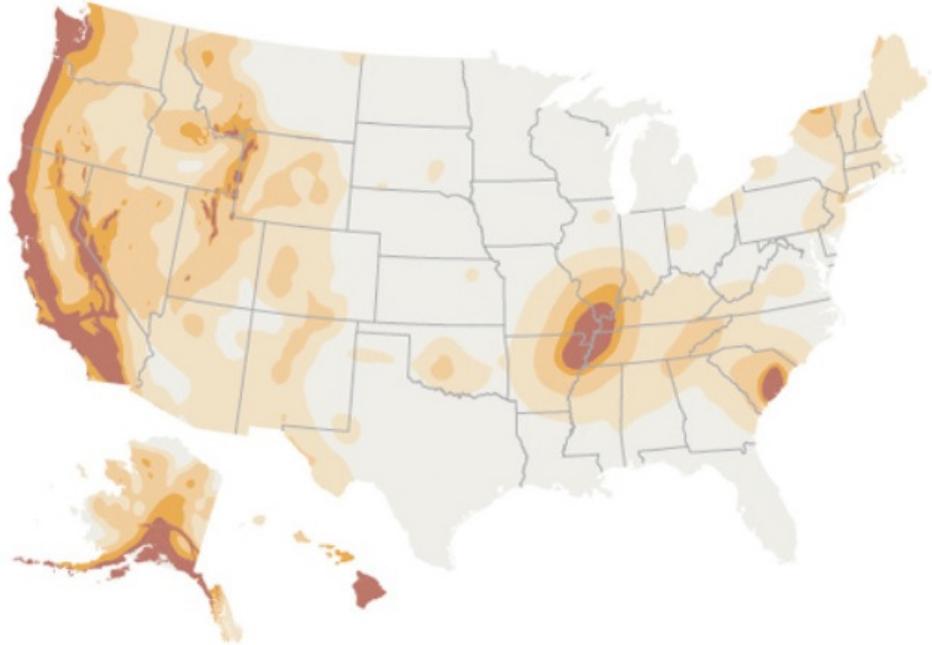
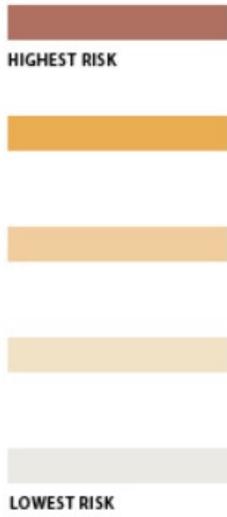
Natural Disaster Risk Map



Natural Disaster Risk Map Jun 25 2012
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

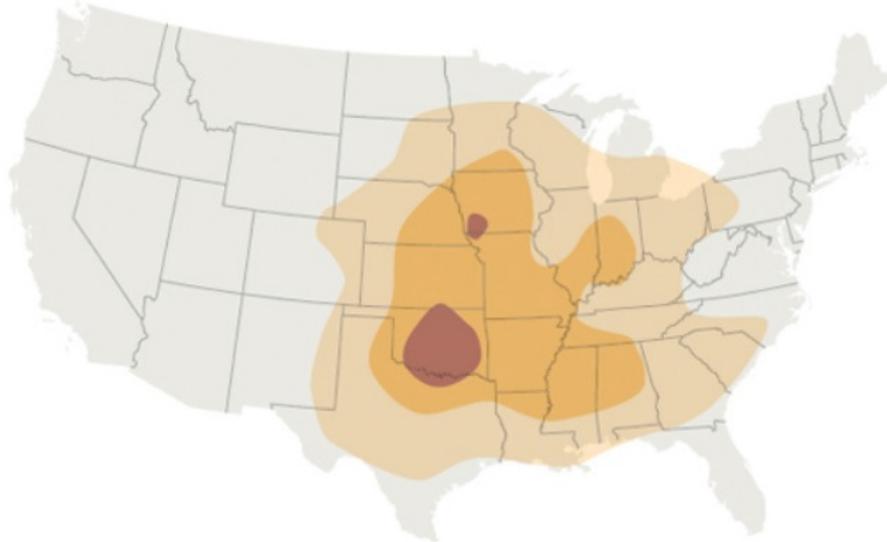
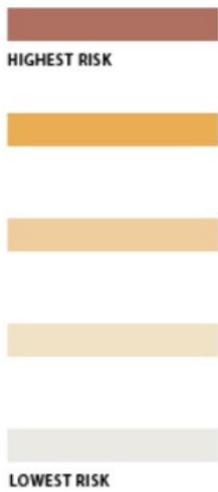
Formerly NM Urban Homesteading

Earthquake Risk Map



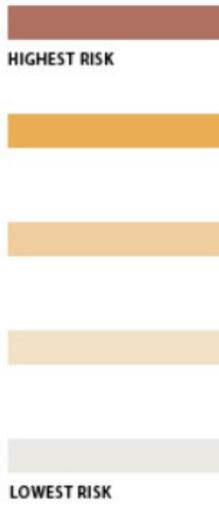
Earthquake Risk Map Jun 25 2012
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

Tornado Risk Map



Tornado Risk Map Jun 25 2012
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

Hurricane Risk Map



Hurricane Risk Map Jun 25 2012
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

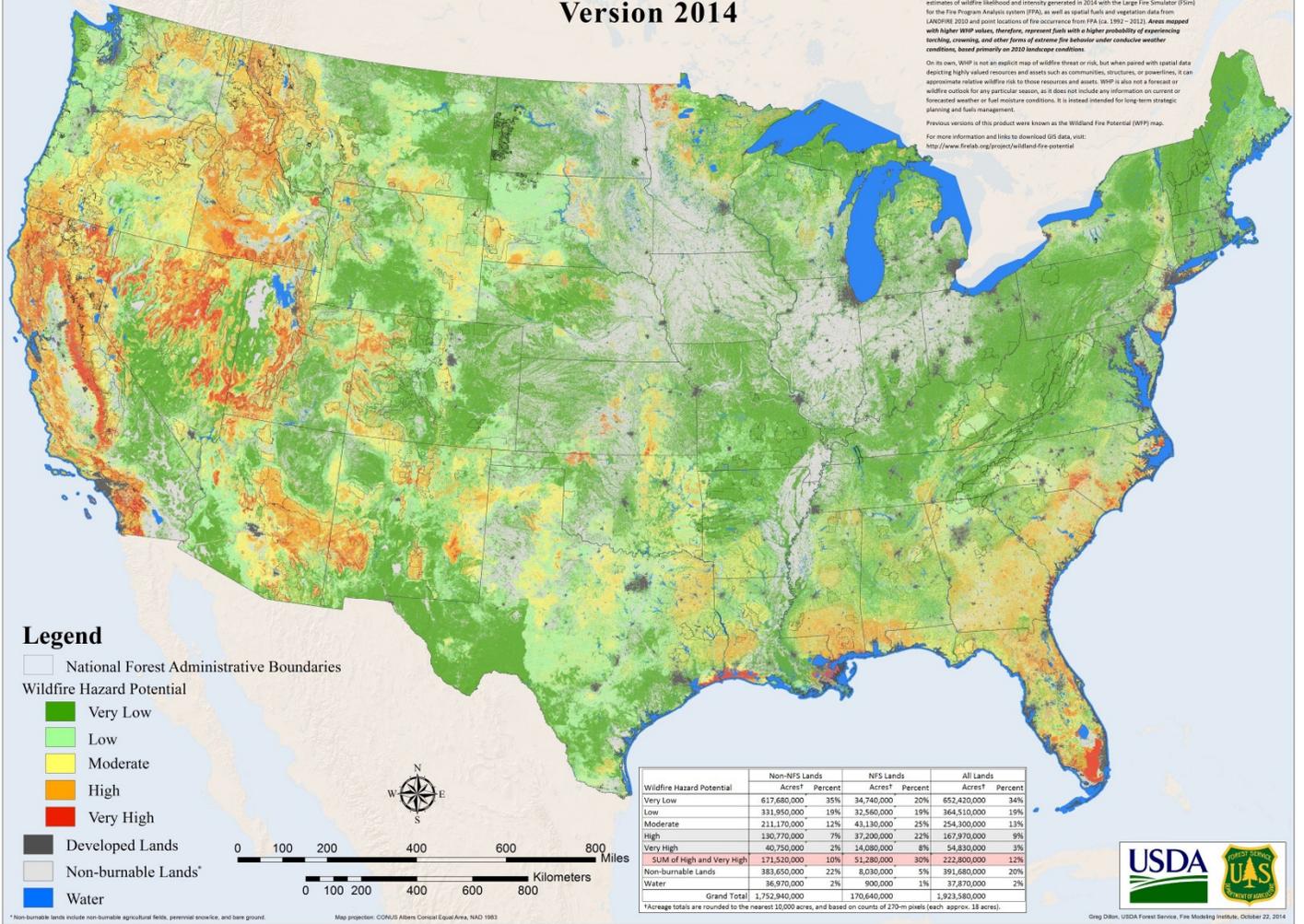
Formerly NM Urban Homesteading

Wildfire Hazard Potential Version 2014

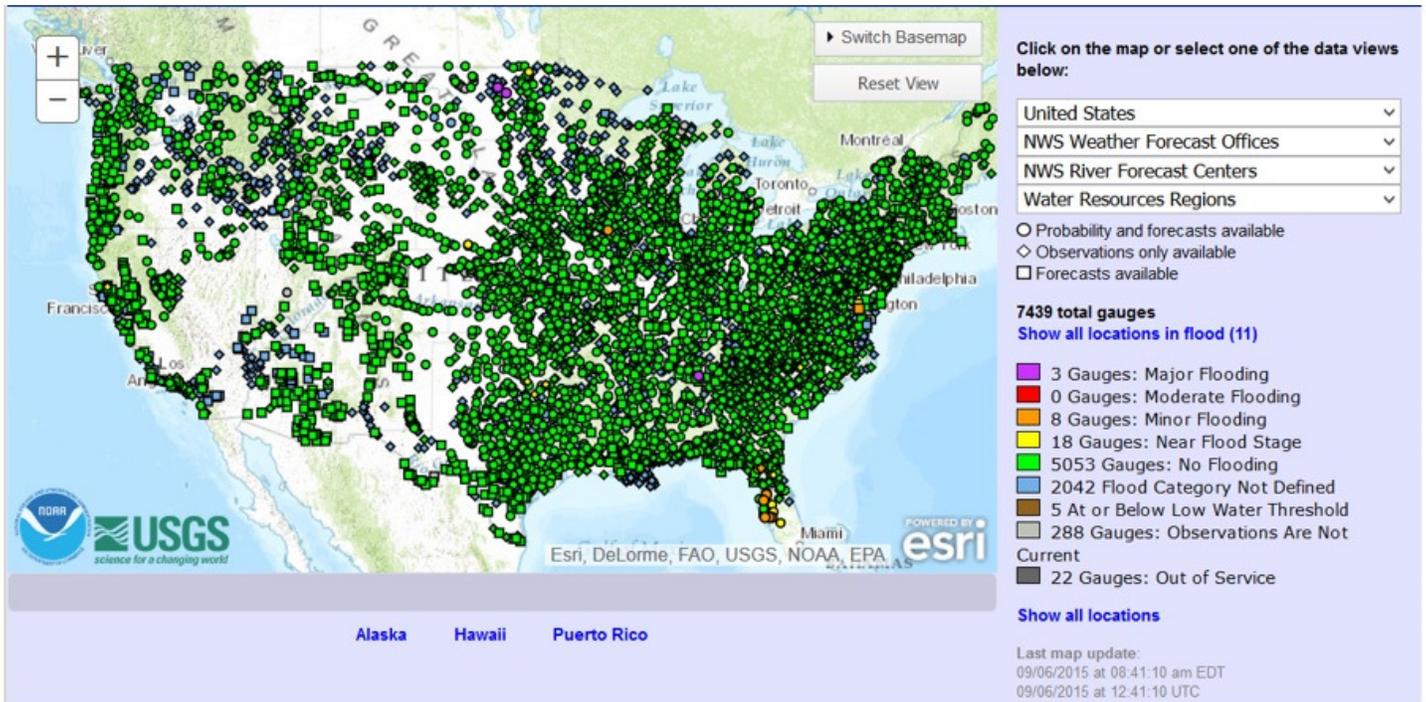
The wildfire hazard potential (WHP) map is a raster geospatial product produced by the USDA Forest Service, Fire Modeling Institute that can help to inform evaluations of wildfire risk or prioritization of fuels management needs across very large spatial scales (millions of acres). Our specific objective with the WHP map is to depict the relative potential for wildfire that would be difficult for suppression resources to control. To create the 2014 version we built upon spatial estimates of wildfire likelihood and intensity generated in 2014 with the Large Fire Simulator (LFS) for the Fire Program Analysis System (FPAS), as well as spatial fuels and vegetation data from LANDFIRE 2012 and point locations of fire occurrence from FRA (ca. 1982–2012). Areas mapped with higher WHP values, therefore, represent fuels with a higher probability of experiencing torching, crowning, and other forms of extreme fire behavior under conducive weather conditions, based primarily on 2010 landscape conditions.

On its own, WHP is not an explicit map of wildfire threat or risk, but when paired with spatial data depicting highly valued resources and assets such as communities, structures, or powerlines, it can approximate relative wildfire risk to those resources and assets. WHP is also not a forecast or wildfire outlook for any particular season, as it does not include any information on current or forecasted weather or fuel moisture conditions. It is instead intended for long-term strategic planning and fuels management.

Previous versions of this product were known as the Wildland Fire Potential (WFP) map. For more information and links to download GIS data, visit: <http://www.firelab.org/project/wildland-fire-potential>

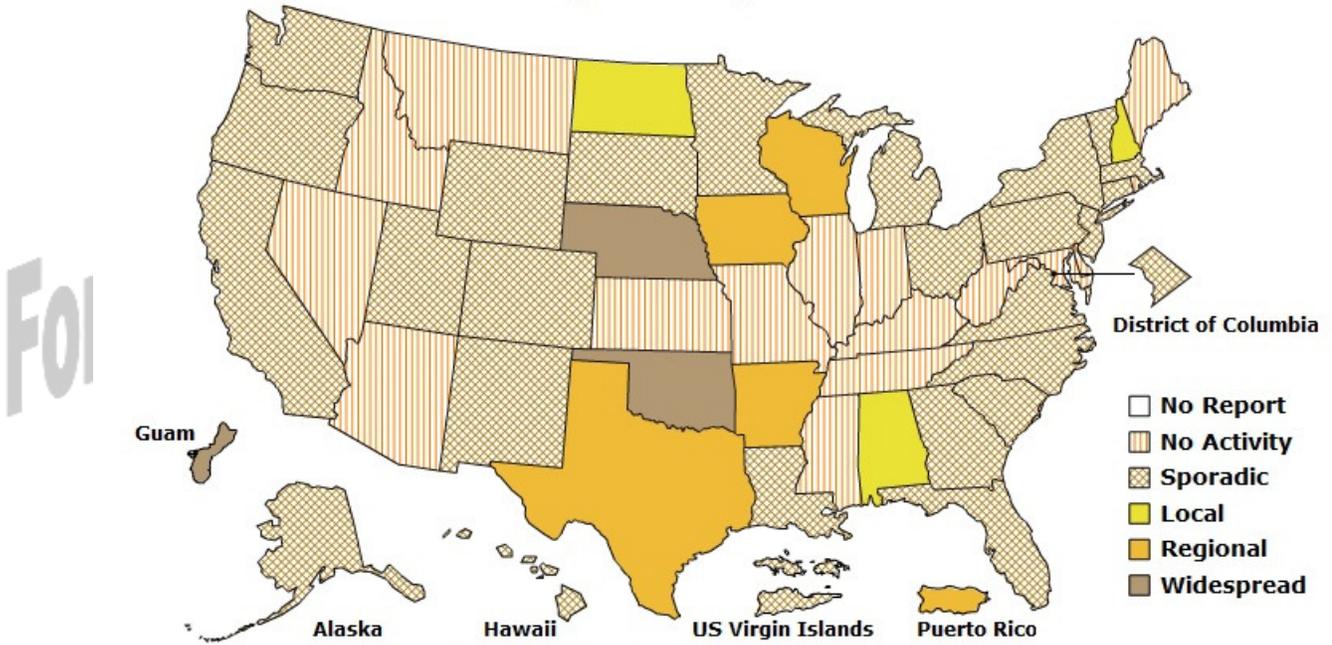


http://www.firelab.org/sites/default/files/images/downloads/whp_2014_classified_lettersize.jpg



**A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
 Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists***

Week Ending October 10, 2015- Week 40



[«Previous Week](#)

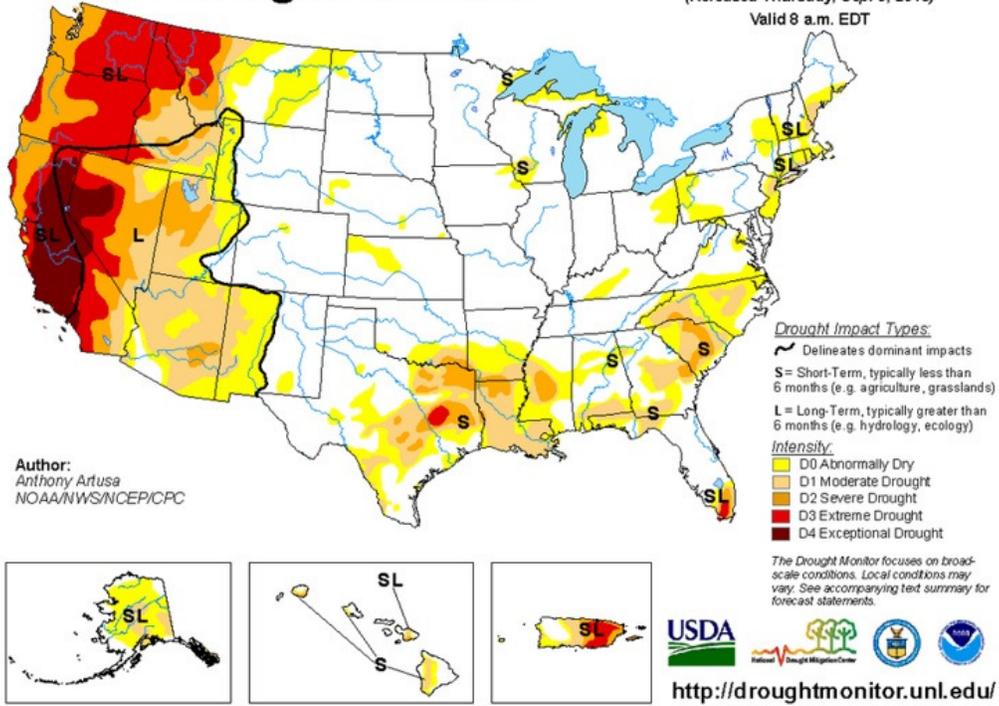
[Downloadable Version](#)

*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

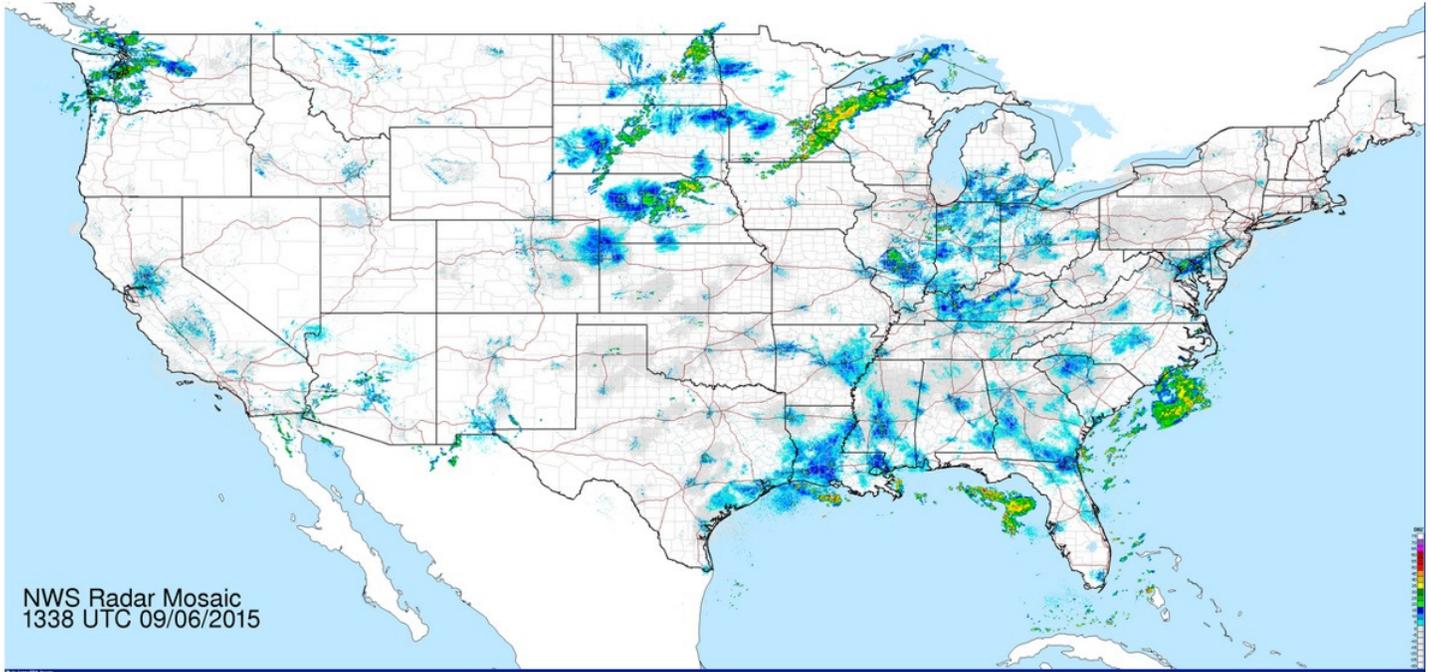
The CDC provides a weekly Flu Activity Map
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 1, 2015
 (Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2015)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

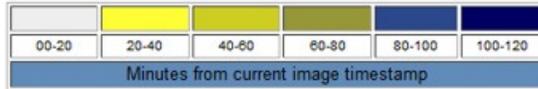
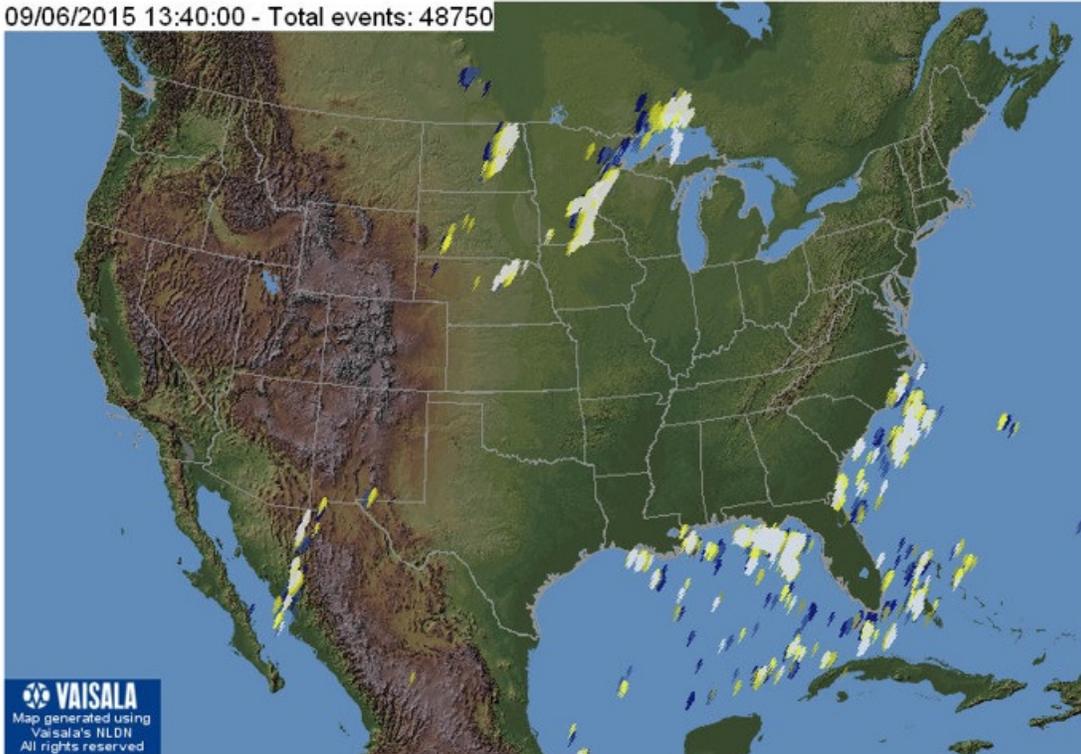


US Drought Monitor Sep 1 2015
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



US Rain and Snow Hazard Map Sep 6 2015
 (Full Resolution) <http://radar.weather.gov/ridge/Conus/full.php>
<http://radar.weather.gov/ridge/Conus/index.php>

09/06/2015 13:40:00 - Total events: 48750



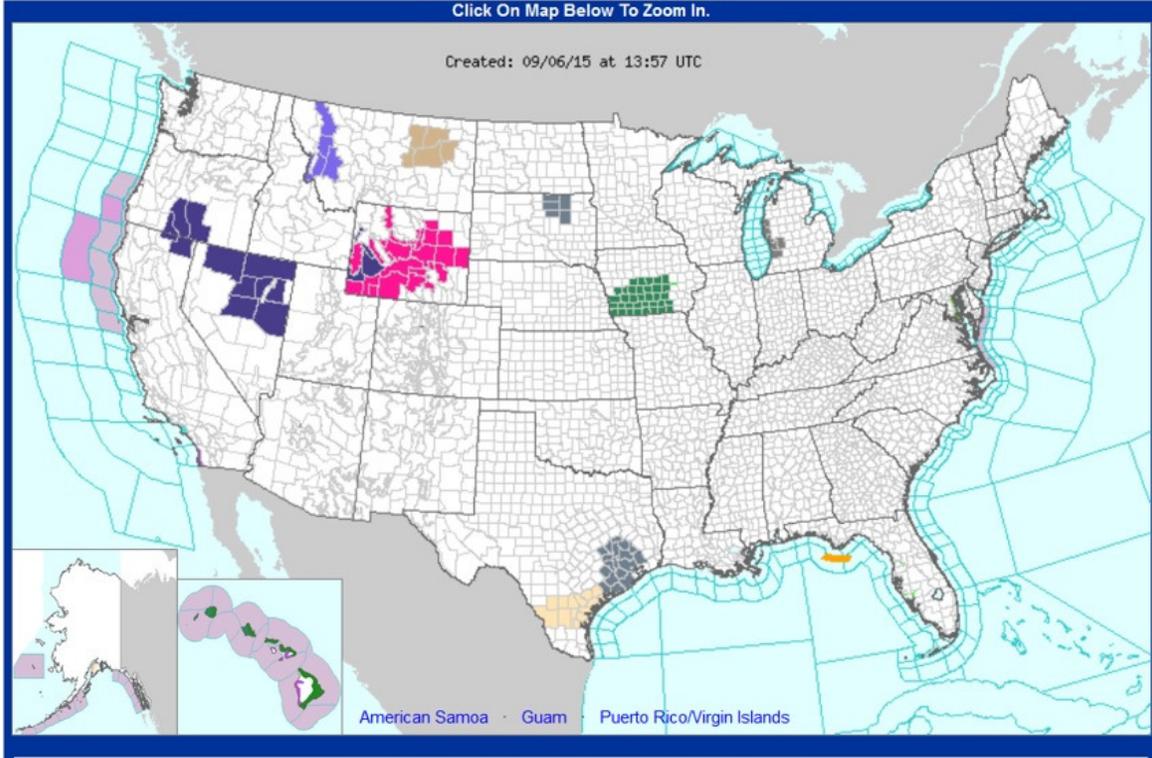
US Lightning Map Sep 6 2015

<http://thunderstorm.vaisala.com/explorer.html>

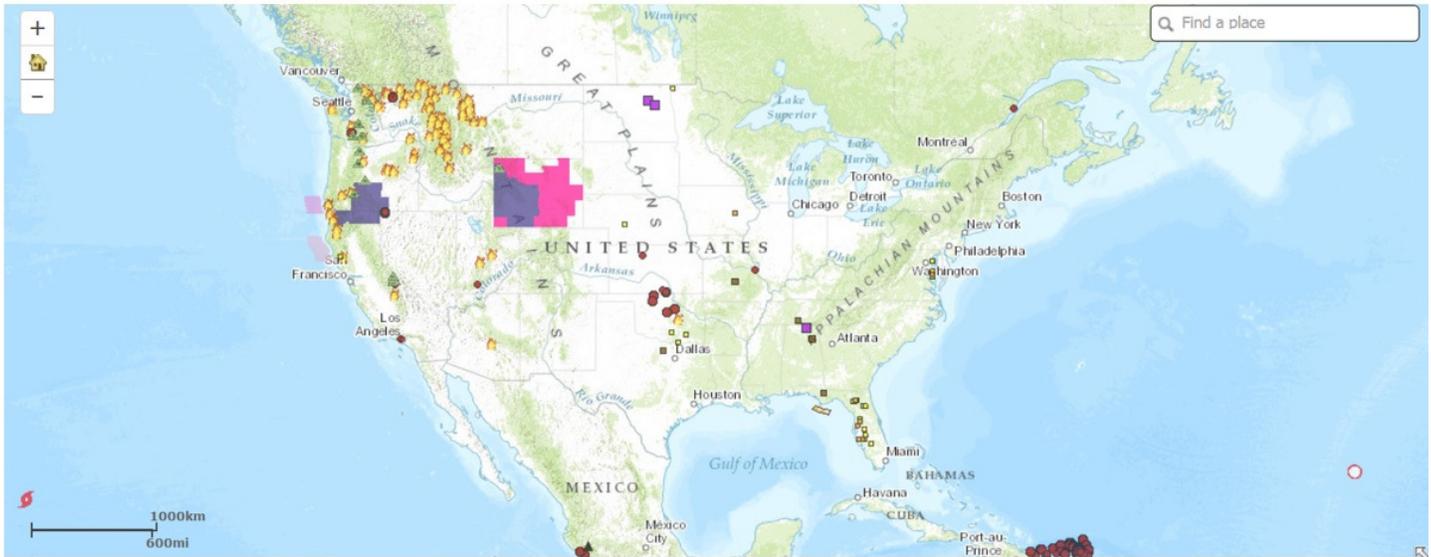
National Weather Hazards

Click On Map Below To Zoom In.

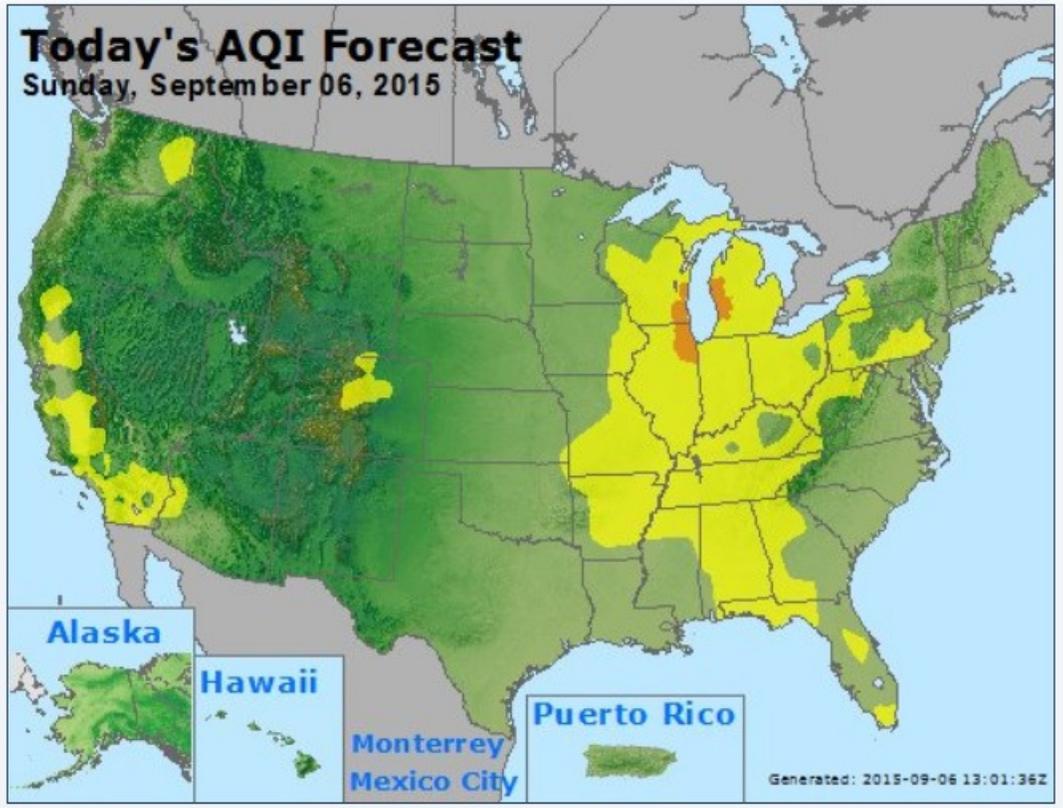
Created: 09/06/15 at 13:57 UTC



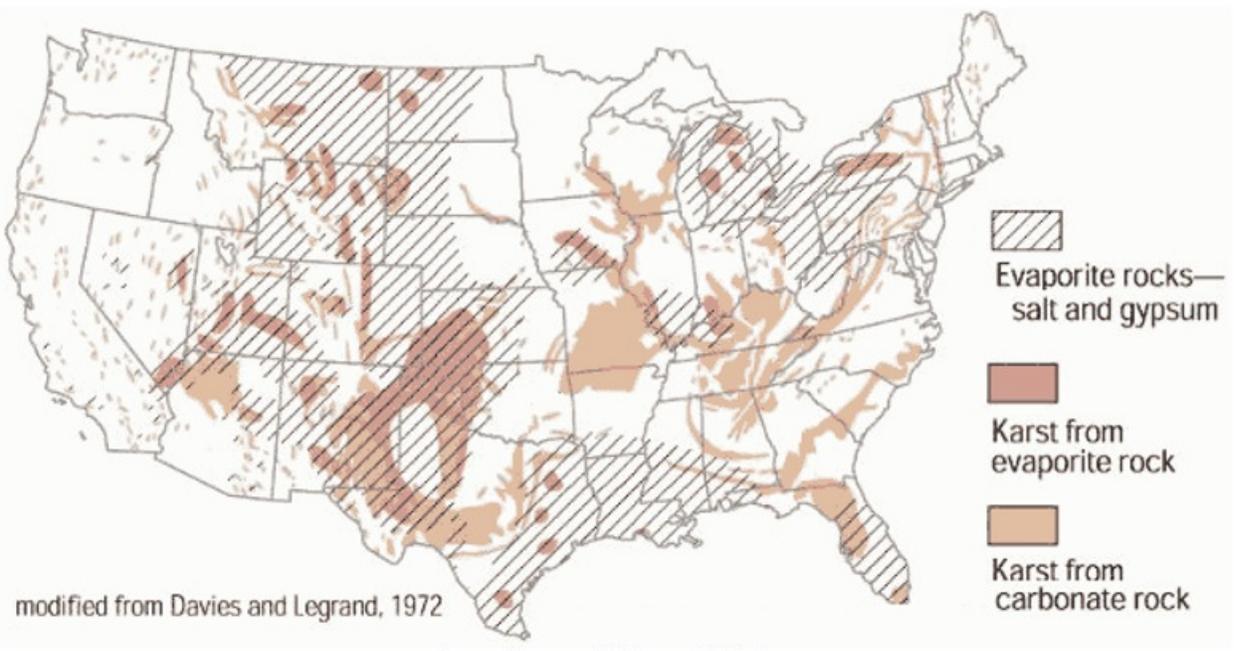
US Extreme Weather Warnings and Alerts Sep 6 2015
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/largemap.php>



US All Hazards, Warnings, Alerts by Interior Geospatial Emergency Management System (IGEMS) Sep 6 2015
<http://igems.doi.gov/>



US Interactive Air Quality Map Sep 6 2015
<http://airnow.gov/>



Areas Prone to Collapse Sinkholes
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/sinkholes.html>

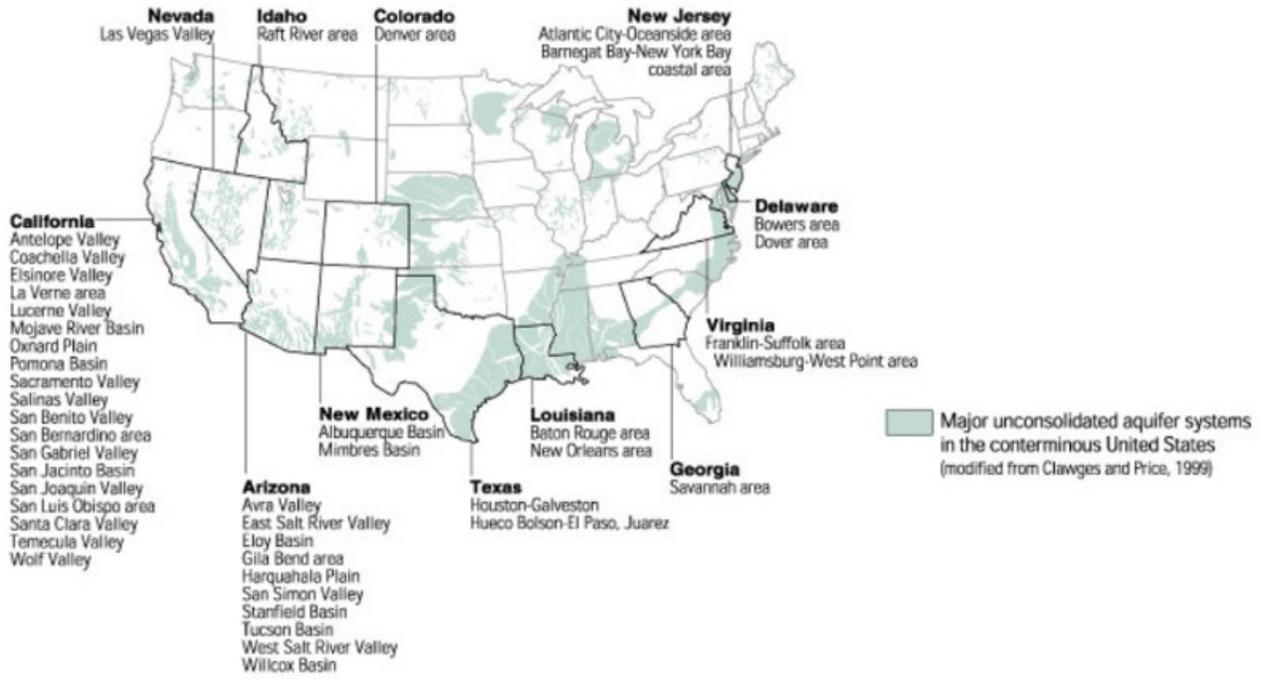


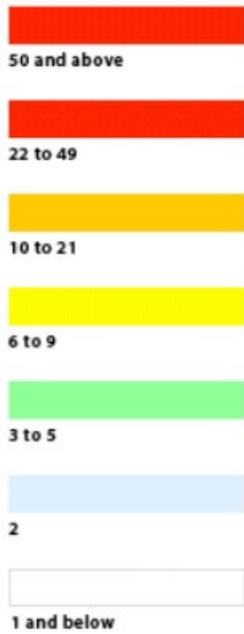
Figure 3. Some of the areas where subsidence has been attributed to the compaction of aquifer systems caused by ground-water pumpage.

Land Subsidence in the US Due to Ground Water Pumpage, USGS Fact Sheet-165-00 Jan 2013
<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/pubs/fs00165/>

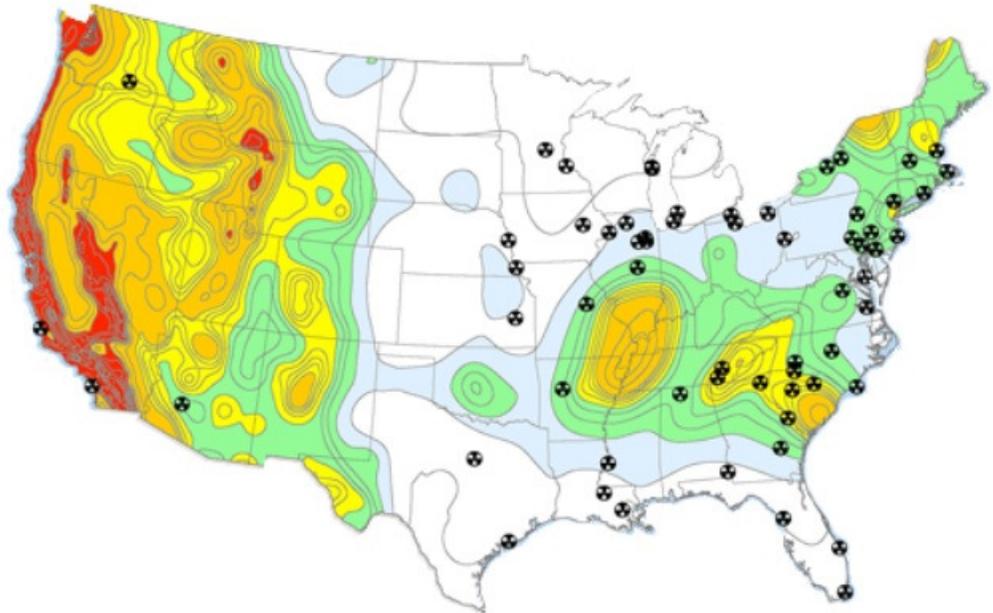
Formerly NM Urban Homestead

Nuclear Facilities and Seismic Hazards Map

Seismic Hazards



 Nuclear Facility



Nuclear Facilities and Seismic Hazards Map Jun 25 2012

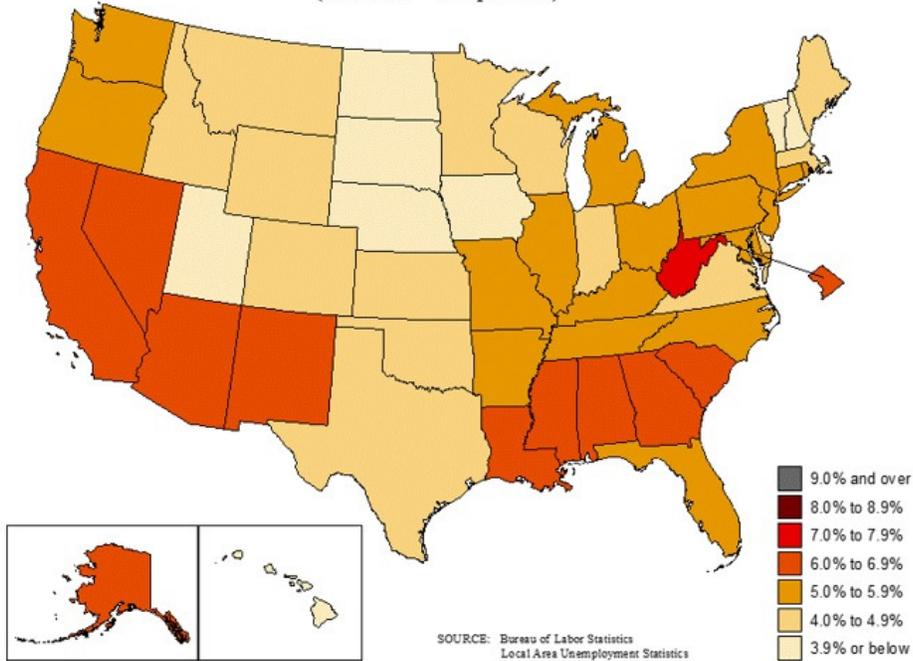
<http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

Large http://www.crisishq.com/files/map_nuclear_reactors_overlapping_seismic_areas.png

Formerly NM Urban...

Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted, July 2015

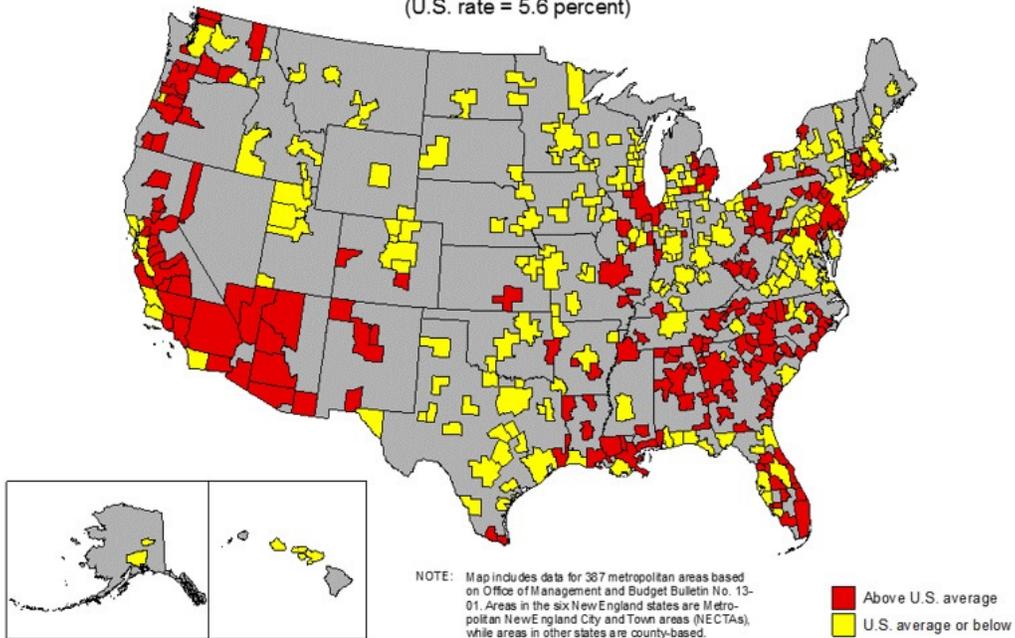
(U.S. rate = 5.3 percent)



US Economic Status Map of Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted Sep 6 2015
<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/mstrcr1.gif> (PDF <http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/mstrcr2.pdf>)

Unemployment rates for metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted, July 2015

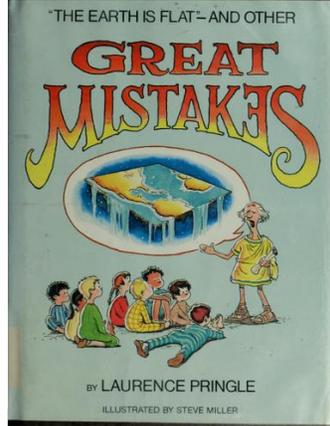
(U.S. rate = 5.6 percent)



US Economic Status Map of Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Area, not seasonally adjusted Sep 6 2015
<http://www.bls.gov/web/metro/mmartcr1.gif> (PDF <http://www.bls.gov/web/metro/mmartcr2.pdf>)

There are all kinds of other possible crises that can occur. Here are some considerations as to the odds of these things actually happening to us.

We are bombarded daily with all kinds of possible crises, emergencies, disasters and hazards. Yet what do the 'experts' of science and education say the odds of these things are?

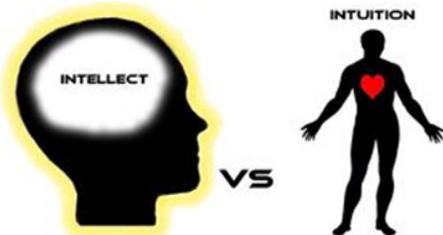


First we have to remember that science and education have been wrong. The world is not flat, the Earth is not the center of the universe, blood transfusing is better than bloodletting and '100 year floods' have occurred 2 or more times in a 20 year time frame.



We humans can't solely rely on our gut instincts and sixth senses either. Our guts can be wrong and we tend to have irrational fears that taint our 'accuracy' or perception of the odds.

Gut Instincts



Not to mention that our very humanness means we cannot just ignore one over the other, even if our rational mind or science indicates we should. Whenever we do, we usually end up drastically lowering our survivability quotient.



Lastly, add in that we can't rule out plain old Luck either!

This means that logically we need to balance these factors against one another, keep them in perspective and come up with 'odds' that are the 'best match' for our mental quirks, beliefs and understandings. Just another reason I prefer the *Needs Based Plan* over the crisis based plan.



For the overall odds of a particular crisis occurring that can cause injury or death (from alien invasion to various work & play incidents like dying from a drinking straw), **see the following tables:**

What Are the Odds? Odds of Occurring in Percentages per Lifetime or Century; This table is in % per average Lifetime (75 years) or Century @

http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-odds_of_occurring_in_percentages_per_lifetime_or_century.pdf

What Are the Odds? Odds of Event Occurring "1 in" Per Lifetime or Century, This table is the "1 in" odds per average Lifetime (75 years) or Century @

http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-odds_of_event_occurring_1_in_per_lifetime_or_century.pdf

Both of these tables are sorted by the *most likely to occur* to the *least likely to occur*.

What Are the Odds? General Number of Recorded Occurrences and or Mortality Information;

This table contains general information on the *occurrences to date*, of most of these various events @

http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-general_number_of_recorded_occurrences_and_or_mortality_information.pdf

What Are the Odds? Risk Maps from Amber Alerts to Zoological, for all of us 'visual' type people is a *bunch of charts* or *graphics* arranged kinda by date, on all kinds of things from risks, crime rates and trust, to cost of various past events, taxes, mortality causes and general economy; what state gets the most government funds, Federal Court districts, as well as time zones and the like @:

- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 1 @ http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_1.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 2 @ http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_2.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 3 @ http://formerlynurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_3.pdf

- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 4 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_4.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 5 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_5.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 6 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_6.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 7 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_7.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 8 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_8.pdf
- What Are the Odds? Risk Maps and Prep Info (graphics only) Part 9 @ http://formerlynmurbanhomesteader.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/5/0/22509786/what_are_the_odds-risk_maps_and_prep_info_graphics_only_part_9.pdf

I know all these tables are kind of “dry” and “dull”, so I have broken them up with some related graphics. Through all of this keep in mind that research has rarely, if ever, been known to be quick or easy. I’m helping you out here by sharing the results of all of my research to date.

Again, if you do nothing else this month, take the time to check out these documents and determine what kind of risks your area is susceptible to.



Take Responsibility
Make a Plan
Have a Kit
Practice
Stay Aware

“If it is to be, it is up to me.”

William H. Johnsen

Depression-era realist/impressionist painter