



# **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

## **Building a Weather-Ready Nation**

### **No Hablo Inglés:**

# **Language Equity in Life-Saving Weather Information**

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# Agenda

- NWS Accomplishments
- Our Mandate & Response
- Work in Progress
- Q&A



# NWS Accomplishments



# What has been done

## Summary

National Weather Service (NWS) has made significant progress toward providing services to Spanish-speaking communities by delivering a number of NWS operational products and services in Spanish for many years.



However, most of these efforts were being done by staff in the field whose main mission was to provide watches and warnings. Also, most of the work was being done manually therefore, the process is laborious and time-consuming.



# NWS Accomplishments

The NWS provides services in languages other than English at a limited number of offices.

- Existing capabilities, which cover a limited number of languages, were created as local solutions. But these added significant workload for local staff performing translations.


**Mensajes Claves Sobre el Huracan Fiona**  
Advertencia 17: 11:00 AM AST domingo, 18 de septiembre de 2022

1. Se esperan condiciones de huracán sobre sectores de Puerto Rico el día de hoy, y se esperan sobre sectores de República Dominicana esta noche al lunes. Condiciones de tormenta tropical está ocurriendo a través de las Islas Virgenes Estadounidenses y Británicas, y se esperan que se desplacen hacia la República Dominicana más tarde el día de hoy a esta noche.

2. Lluvias fuertes debido a Fiona se espera que continúen a través de Puerto Rico hasta horas de la noche, desplazándose hacia la República Dominicana más tarde el día de hoy al lunes. Esta actividad de lluvia producirá inundaciones repentinas y urbanas amenazantes a la vida a través de Puerto Rico y sectores del este de la República Dominicana, junto con deslizamientos de tierra y de lodo en áreas de terreno empinados.

3. Se pronostica que Fiona se fortalezca justo luego de moverse fuera de Puerto Rico y la República Dominicana. Condiciones de tormenta tropical son posibles en las islas Turk y Caicos y el sureste de las Bahamas para tarde el lunes o temprano el martes.

Para obtener más información visite la página web [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov)




**Hurricane Fiona**  
Intensity: Category 1b  
11 AM AST Sunday 17  
South Atlantic Hurricane Center

**Current information:**  
Current position: 17.5N 80.5W  
Maximum sustained wind: 65 mph  
Minimum pressure: 995 mb

**Forecast positions:**  
1 PM AST Sunday 17  
6 PM AST Sunday 17  
1 PM AST Monday 18  
6 PM AST Monday 18  
1 PM AST Tuesday 19

**Potential track area:**  
Watches: 1-4  
Warnings: 1-4  
Current wind extent: 1-4

**72-hrs Rain Forecast for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands**  
Valid from 06:00:00Z 18Z to 06:00:00Z 19Z



National Weather Service  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
701-1002 / 7-446-0467

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**Statements, Watches and Warnings**  
Comunicados, Vigilancia y Avisos

Hydrology/Hidrológico	<b>Hazardous Weather/Condiciones Peligrosas</b>	Marine/Marítimo
Area Forecast/Pronóstico de Área	Tropical	Climate/Clima
Aviation/Aviación	Fire Danger/Peligro por Incendios	Emergencies/Emergencias
Earthquakes/Tsunami		



**Hazardous Weather/Condiciones Peligrosas**

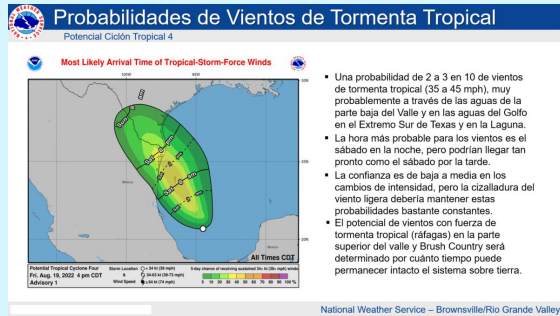
English/Inglés	Spanish/Español (if available/si esta disponible)
<a href="#">Special Weather Statement</a>	Comunicado Especial sobre las Condiciones del Tiempo
<a href="#">Severe Thunderstorm Warning</a>	Aviso de Tormentas Eléctricas Severas
<a href="#">Severe Weather Statement</a>	Comunicado sobre Condiciones del Tiempo Severas
<a href="#">Tornado Warning</a>	Aviso de Tornado
<a href="#">Coastal Flooding/High Surf</a>	Inundaciones Costeras/Resacas Fuertes
<a href="#">Hazardous Weather Outlook</a>	Perspectivas sobre las Condiciones del Tiempo Peligrosas
<a href="#">Heat Advisory/Excessive Heat Watch/Excessive Heat Warning</a>	Advertencia de Calor/Vigilancia de Calor Excesivo/Aviso de Calor Excesivo



# NWS Accomplishments

NWS bilingual forecasters created two teams that translate active weather and preparedness information on a best-effort basis.

## Multimedia Assistance in Spanish (MAS): 0-72 hours



## Spanish Outreach Team: 72+ hours



### Social Media Plan: Vestirse para el Frío - Infografía (Dressing for the Cold - Infographic)

#### Facebook

Abrigándose en capas y manteniéndose seco es una de las mejores cosas que puede hacer para mantenerse seguro este invierno. Protégete del frío este invierno.

[weather.gov/safety/cold](https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold)

#### Twitter

Abrigándose en capas y manteniéndose seco es una de las mejores cosas que puede hacer para mantenerse seguro este invierno.

[weather.gov/safety/cold](https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold)



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# Our Mandate & Response



# NWS Service Equity Framework

## Equitable Services for a Weather-Ready Nation

NWS Service Equity Priority Actions  
2023-2026

Last Update: 17-Mar-2023



NOAA | National Weather Service



## The NWS Assessment identified seven (7) barriers to achieving Equitable Services:

- 1 Trust
- 2 Awareness
- 3 Language
- 4 NWS Culture
- 5 Resources
- 6 Access
- 7 Partners

Most NWS operational services (forecasts and warnings) as well as education and outreach materials are conveyed exclusively in English. This leaves non-English and English as a Second language speakers unable or compromised in understanding and acting on the valuable weather information we provide.



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# NWS Service Equity Framework

## Equitable Services for a Weather-Ready Nation

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NOAA | National Weather Service



## From the NWS Director:

*To excel in our mission “to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy,” **we must provide these services equitably.***



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# NWS Service Equity Framework

## Tools and Technology (SETT) Priority Actions

- Tools and/or technology that can **close the gap** toward advancing equity internally and externally
- To ensure equity is consistently and systematically at the center of our operational, outreach, and education services.
- 40 actions total
- 11 actions under SETT
  - \* Most are being champion or lead within different programs in the NWS



# Tools and Technology Actions

Language as barrier to achieve Equitable Services



- **Develop a comprehensive plan to implement multilingual translation for NWS services for operational activities and for education and outreach.**
- **Prototype automated enterprise multilingual translation capability for NWS products and services.**

# Work in Progress



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# Develop a comprehensive plan to implement multilingual translation for NWS services

## Focus on operational activities and on education and outreach

- To identify, document, evaluate, and develop options to streamline (if applicable) translations and services in Spanish and other languages already being done in the NWS; focusing primarily on those processes and actions that the NWS directly controls.
- Increase collaboration between all the Spanish/Language efforts across NWS, NOAA, DOC, and other government/NGO agencies regarding outreach, preparedness, and availability to the media.
- Increase the number of services and products being offered in languages other than English.

# Ongoing Efforts

## Increasing Collaboration



## Deaf and Hard of Hearing



## AI for Weather Information



## Advocating





## Questions/Comments

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**NWS Language Program Lead**



# Thank you!



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