



Definitions of Heat Alerts

National Weather Service Heat Wave Program in Wisconsin

Outlooks

Outlooks: The outlooks are issued daily when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next three to seven days.

Heat Wave

A period of unusually hot and humid generally lasting more than two days.

Heat Advisory – Be aware

Issued when the heat index* temperature is expected to be 100°F or higher. If the maximum heat index will be between 95-99°F for four days in a row, then an advisory will also be issued.

Extreme Heat Watch – Be prepared

Heat watches are issued when conditions are favorable for an extreme heat event within the next one to three days.

Extreme Heat Warning – Take Action

Issued when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105°F or higher and not to go below 75°F for a heat index the morning prior or after. Check in with loved ones and neighbors during heat waves, especially if they last a few days. If the maximum heat index will be between 100-104°F for four days in a row, a 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

P-00632A (06/2025)