

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

April 27, 2022

Wildfire Activity

- Deadly wildfires have engulfed several communities across the United States
- As firefighters continue to tackle the blaze, there have been reports of multiple casualties in Nebraska.
- Wildfires have also worsened in Arizona and new fires have emerged in New Mexico.
- Massive wildfires were also reported growing in some states, including in Colorado, Florida, South Dakota, and Texas.
- Amidst the weather forecast of a cold front and severe weather in the country this week, fire weather conditions have remained, especially in the Southwest US.



Nebraska – Road 702 Fire

- The wildfire in Nebraska killed one person and injured at least 145 firefighters with at least six houses destroyed.
- Nebraska Emergency Management reported Tuesday that firefighters had contained 74 percent of the Road 702 Fire despite strong winds. Local farmers, engines and Nebraska National Guard helicopters worked to together to control the fire.
- The Nebraska Wildfire Risk map shows high to very high risk for wildfire over most of Nebraska, with the highest risk today in southern Nebraska between Sidney and Hebron.
- The National Weather Service's Cheyenne office reports elevated to near-critical fire weather today in the southern Nebraska panhandle, as well as southeast Wyoming.

Arizona – Tunnel Fire (Coconino County)

- Arizona authorities continue to fend off the raging flames of the so-called 'Tunnel Fire', which has already increased to 20% in the covered area as of Monday evening, April 25.
- The U.S. Forest Service in the Coconino National Forest stated the blaze has covered 19,344 acres, as per Fox News.
- Meanwhile, the Coconino County Sheriff's Office reportedly said that approximately 109 properties have been affected by the Tunnel Fire, including 30 residences.
- Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency to allow Coconino County receive its needed relief and aid assistance for the affected communities for response and recovery operations due to the wildfire's destruction.

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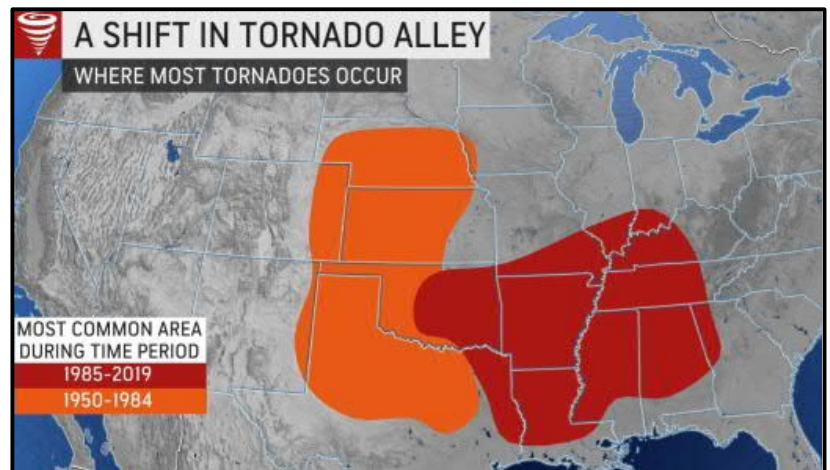
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New Mexico

- New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has signed emergency declarations as 20 wildfires continued burning in nearly half of the state's drought-stricken 33 counties.
- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) has classified five of those fires as large.
- This includes the Hermits Peak fire in northern New Mexico, which started April 6 and then merged with the newer Calf Canyon fire Saturday to form the largest blaze in the state.
- This led to widespread evacuations in Mora and San Miguel counties as winds fanned the flames.
- As of Wednesday morning, that fire had spread across nearly 60,200 acres and was only 12% contained, according to Inciweb.
- More than 200 structures have been charred by the New Mexico fires and an additional 900 remain threatened, Lujan Grisham said.
- Fire management officials said an exact damage count was unclear because it's still too dangerous for crews to go in and look at all the homes that have been lost.
- The combination of the wind, drought and dry air will produce elevated to critical fire conditions across the region that could last through Friday. The threat could spread as far east as Texas and Oklahoma.

Tornado Alley Shifting East

- On average, 1,200 tornadoes hit the United States each year, according to the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), and while twisters can happen at any time and in any state, the prevailing wisdom has held that most of the large twisters occur in Tornado Alley.
- The term Tornado Alley was coined in 1952 when two meteorologists studied severe weather in parts of Texas and Oklahoma.
- The research paper, titled "Tornado Alley," was published by two U.S. Air Force meteorologists -- Major Ernest J. Fawbush and Captain Robert C. Miller, who created the first tornado forecast in 1948.
- Since then, the term has stuck around as a way to describe the area that encompasses parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, where it was believed tornadoes are the most frequent.
- With powerful tornadoes decimating areas in the Midwest and the southeastern U.S. over the past 20 years, there now may be a reason to believe that Tornado Alley has shifted east.



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- A study conducted in 2018 and published in the journal Nature showed that the ingredients required to produce long-lived twisters were flourishing more in the Mississippi River valley in the last 20 years than parts of the original Tornado Alley.
- Furthermore, the paper says, the number of days with meteorological conditions conducive to tornadoes has declined for parts of the original Tornado Alley, while the number of tornado days has increased significantly east of the Mississippi River.
- AccuWeather's analysis of this, and other research, shows the area of the most common tornado occurrence, i.e. Tornado Alley, has moved from the Plains to the Southeast and parts of the lower Mississippi River Valley over the last few decades.

Peak of Tornado Season

- The National Weather Service (NWS) has kept a database of tornado reports since 1950, which gives a 70-year view of when tornadoes occur in the United States.
- There are three months of the year in which more than half of all U.S. tornado reports have occurred. That's April, May and June.
- Although there are significant daily spikes in April due to major tornado outbreaks that often occur during that month, the busiest month for tornado activity is May when the U.S. gets 22% of its yearly total.
- The month of May also features the seven-day average peak of tornado season. This peak occurs between May 19 and May 26. About 6% of all tornado reports on record have occurred during this seven-day period.
- May 25 is the day with the highest number of reports, featuring 649 tornadoes between 1950 and 2020.
- At least one tornado has been reported on May 25 every year since 2004.

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

State	Event	Number of Counties for IA		Start-End
		Requested	Completed	
TX	Severe Weather March 21-TBD	15	8	3/28-TBD
TN	Severe Weather & Wildfires March 30-31	1	0	4/27-TBD

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WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4611 LA	Hurricane	25 Parishes	239	11/29/2021

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

