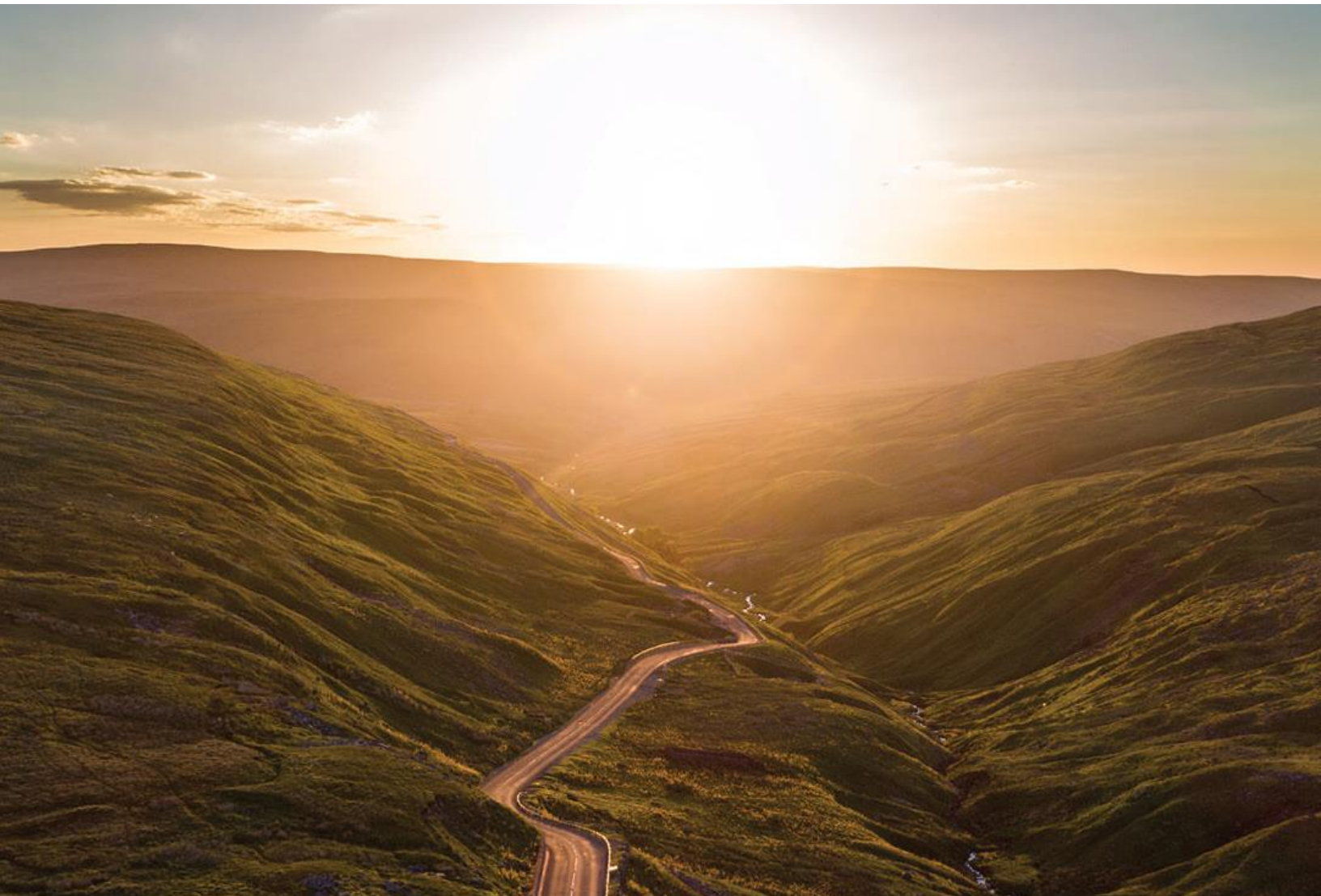
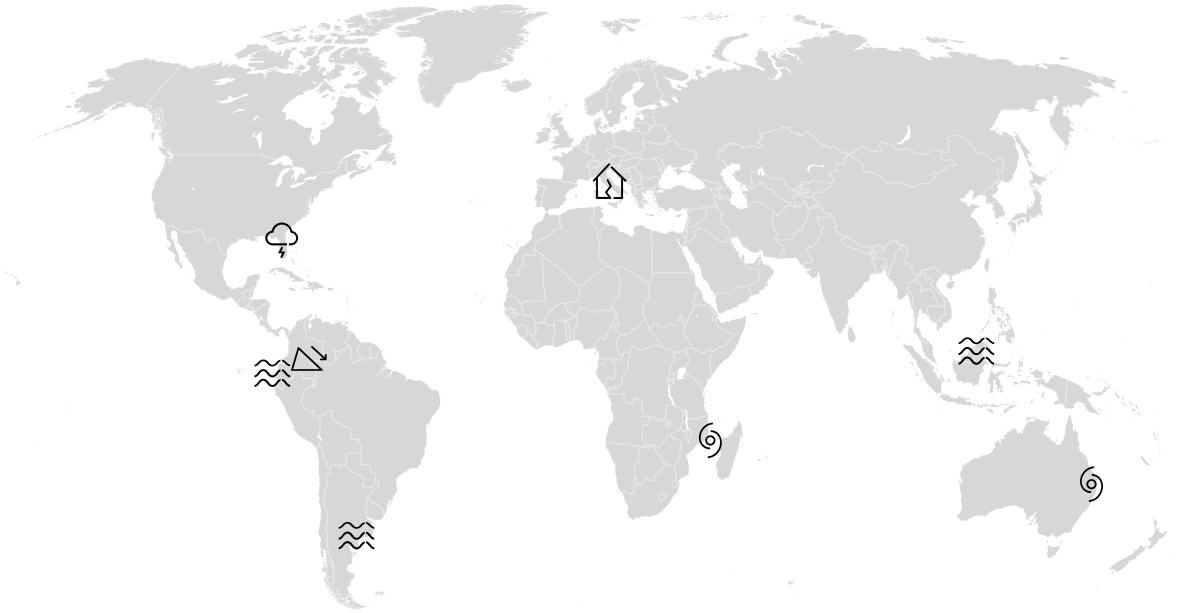
Weekly Cat Report

March 14, 2025



Executive Summary



Event	Affected Region(s)	Fatalities	Economic Loss ($)	Page
Cyclone Alfred (Update)	Australia	1	100s of millions	3
Flooding	Argentina	16	100s of millions	7
Cyclone Jude	Southeastern Africa	9	Unknown	9
Landslide	Colombia	4	Unknown	11
Severe Convective Storm	United States	0	Millions	11
Flooding & Landslides (Update)	Ecuador	19+	Unknown	11
Flooding	Malaysia	N/A	Unknown	11
Earthquake	Italy	0	Negligible	11

Please note that any financial loss estimate is preliminary and subject to change. These estimates are provided as an initial view of the potential financial impact from a recently completed or ongoing event based on early available assessments. Significant adjustments may inevitably occur. All losses in US dollars ($) unless noted otherwise.

Along with this report, we continue to welcome users to access current and historical natural catastrophe data and event analysis on Impact Forecasting's Catastrophe Insight website: http://catastropheinsight.aon.com

Australia: Cyclone Alfred (Update)

Overview

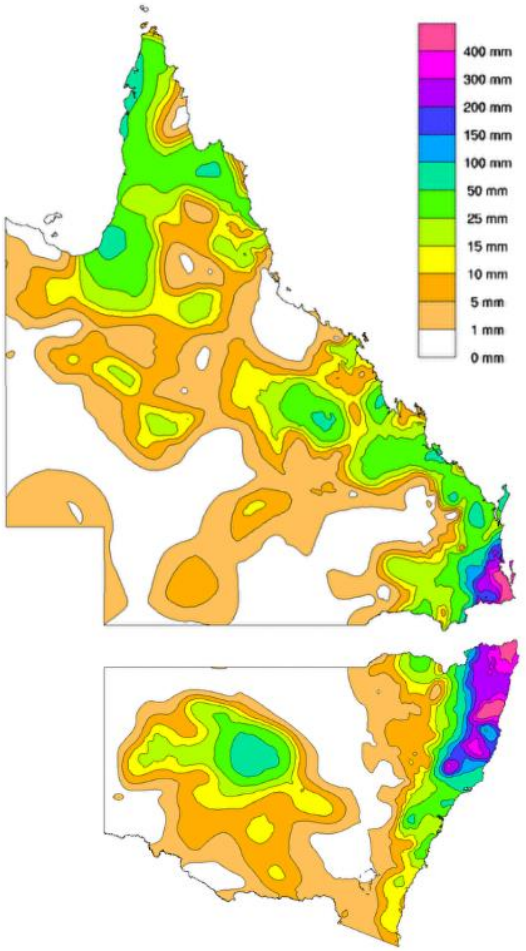
Cyclone Alfred, the seventh named storm in the Australian cyclone season, impacted southeast Queensland and New South Wales North Coast, especially the densely populated area of Brisbane. Alfred made landfall near Brisbane at around 23:30 AEST (13:30 UTC) on March 7, later than the previous landfall predictions, generating high winds, flooding, and storm surge that caused significant damage. Economic and insured loss impacts are expected to reach at least into the hundreds of millions AUD, likely higher. The Insurance Council already reported nearly 45,000 filed claims.

Meteorological Recap

On February 20, a tropical low was identified by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) in the Coral Sea. Two days later, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) classified this system as a tropical storm based on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS). On the same day, BoM upgraded the system to a Category 1 storm according to the Australian Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale and named it **Alfred**. By February 28, the storm reached its peak intensity (Category 4 status on both intensity scales) while moving south. After turning sharply west towards the eastern Australia coast on March 3, watches and warnings were issued for New South Wales and southeast Queensland, including the area of Brisbane, which was last issued a cyclone watch in 2019.

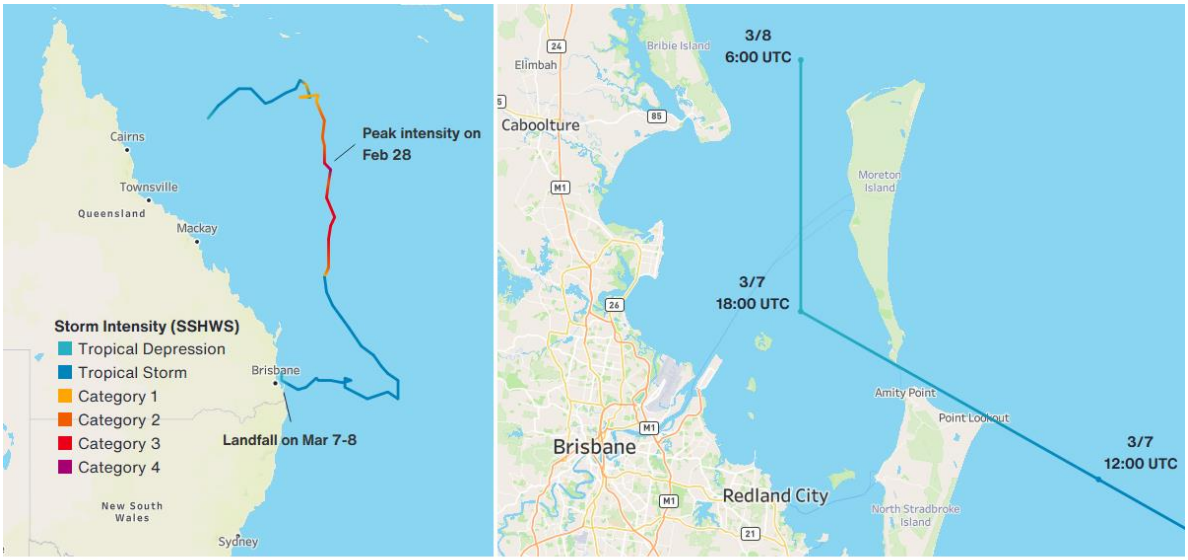
As of March 6, Alfred's approach to Brisbane slowed down, delaying its landfall. The storm was initially expected to generate severe wind gusts and cumulative rainfall of more than 300 mm (11.8 inches), with locally higher amounts.

While not unprecedented, the storm's impact was highly anticipated due to the rare nature of the storm and the concentration of exposure affected. Alfred was the first storm to cross the coastline in the southeastern Queensland since 1974.



7-day rainfall accumulation (Mar 4-10)
Source: BoM

In the end, parts of Brisbane received over **490 mm (19.3 inches)** of rain during the event. The highest weekly total was **1,329 mm (52.3 inches)** at Springbrook Road, QLD, according to the BoM (see the detailed table below).



Data: JTWC, BoM

Location (State)	Maximum Daily Total (mm/in)
Nimbin, NSW	**485.0 / 19.1**
Nambour Daff, QLD	365.0 / 14.4
Brisbane Road, QLD	334.0 / 13.1
Carole Park, QLD	331.0 / 13.0
Karalee, QLD	295.8 / 11.6

Location (State)	7-day Rainfall Total, Mar 5-11 (mm/in)
Lower Springbrook, QLD	**1,329.0 / 52.3**
Lower Springbrook, QLD	1,038.8 / 40.1
Meldrum, NSW	742.0 / 29.2
Lowanna, NSW	740.0 / 29.1
Binna Burra, QLD	730.0 / 28.7

Historical Comparison

Four major historical events were comparable to Cyclone Alfred from meteorological standpoint and disaster impacts in southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales:

- **The Great Gold Coast Cyclone (February 1954**) – made landfall in the town of Coolangatta; significant flooding and wind damage, although the area was much less populated at this time
- **Cyclone Dinah (January/February 1967)** – made landfall on K'gari (formerly Fraser) Island; much of the damage was due to significant storm surge and strong winds
- **Cyclone Wanda (January 1974)** – although a very weak/ex-tropical cyclone, this storm produced historic rainfall, becoming one of the worst floods in recorded history for southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales
- **Cyclone Zoe (March 1974)** – followed just after Wanda, made landfall in the town of Coolangatta; resulted in more major flooding. Zoe was the last cyclone to make landfall near Brisbane

Event Details

Storm Alfred caused significant damage and disruption in **Queensland** and **New South Wales**. Over 20,300 properties faced storm surge risk, with more than 450,000 properties losing power in Queensland - the largest disaster-related outage in the state's history. There was at least one death, dozens injured, and several people missing. The Gold Coast experienced substantial coastal erosion and high exposure areas were severely affected. By March 9, Queensland's State Emergency Service (SES) received over 3,670 emergency calls - the highest number in 24 hours for Queensland SES. Meanwhile, New South Wales SES responded to nearly 12,800 calls and conducted at least 85 water rescues since Alfred began.

Flooding damage from Cyclone Alfred in QLD (left) and NSW (right)
Source: Queensland FD (left), New South Wales SES (right)

Financial Loss

Cyclone Alfred was declared an insurance catastrophe by the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) on March 9. The ICA reported over **44,700 claims** as of March 13, with the majority of claims originating from Queensland. Although it is too early to determine the eventual financial impact and its implications on the local re/insurance market, the preliminary numbers show a significant burden on the insurance sector. However, economic and insured loss impacts are expected to reach at least into the hundreds of millions AUD.

State	Home	Motor	Commercial	Total
New South Wales	2,940	186	203	3,329
Queensland	38,000	1,786	1,680	41,466
Total	**40,940**	**1,972**	**1,883**	**44,795**

Claims from Alfred as of March 13 (Source: Insurance Council of Australia)

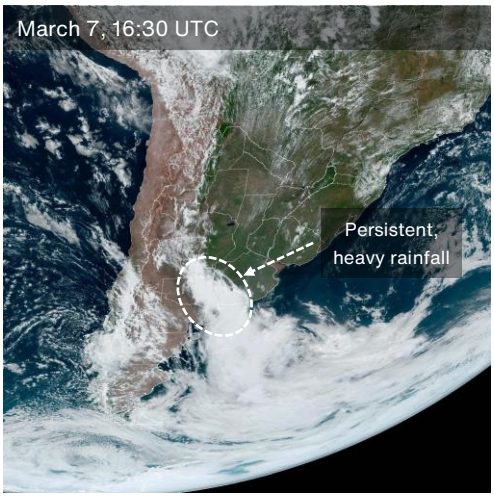
Argentina: Flooding

Overview

On March 7, the Argentine port city of Bahía Blanca received nearly 70% of its average annual rainfall in just 24 hours. Subsequent flash floods devastated much of the city, resulting in widespread property and infrastructure damage. At least 16 people were killed, nearly 100 others remain missing, and total economic losses may reach into the hundreds of millions USD. Infrastructural losses alone were preliminarily estimated at ARP400 billion ($375 million).

Meteorological Recap

Amid hot and humid conditions across Argentina in recent days, a line of persistent thunderstorms developed early on March 7 over the Buenos Aires Provinces. The port city of Bahía Blanca was, by far, the most affected area as torrential rain fell upon the city for nearly 8 hours uninterrupted. After 24 hours, over 400 mm (15.7 inches) of rainfall was recorded, representing roughly 70% of the city's average annual rainfall.



Event Details

Severe flooding left at least 16 people dead and displaced over 2,700 residents, affecting nearly 170,000 individuals overall. The death toll is expected to rise further as dozens of people remain missing. In anticipation of the heavy rainfall, schools were suspended on March 7. Over 130 schools were damaged, with 56 suffering severe damage due to the floods. The devastation extended to numerous buildings, including a local hospital that sustained significant damage, and some roads and bridges were also destroyed.

Flash flooding in Bahía Blanca, Argentina
Source: Ejército Argentino

Scenes on social media depicted cars being swept down inundated roads around the city. The floodwaters also caused widespread power outages, as a result, electricity services were temporarily suspended in the city. Four days after the initial flooding, conditions had not fully improved. Public transportation was only partially restored, and 30% of Bahía Blanca remained without electricity. Due to the significant impacts in Bahía Blanca, the Argentine government declared three days of national mourning following the recent floods.

Financial Loss

The mayor of Bahía Blanca estimated that the total cost of infrastructure repairs may reach ARP400 billion ($375 million). In recent days, the Argentine government has approved at least ARP200 billion ($184 million) for immediate reconstruction aid.

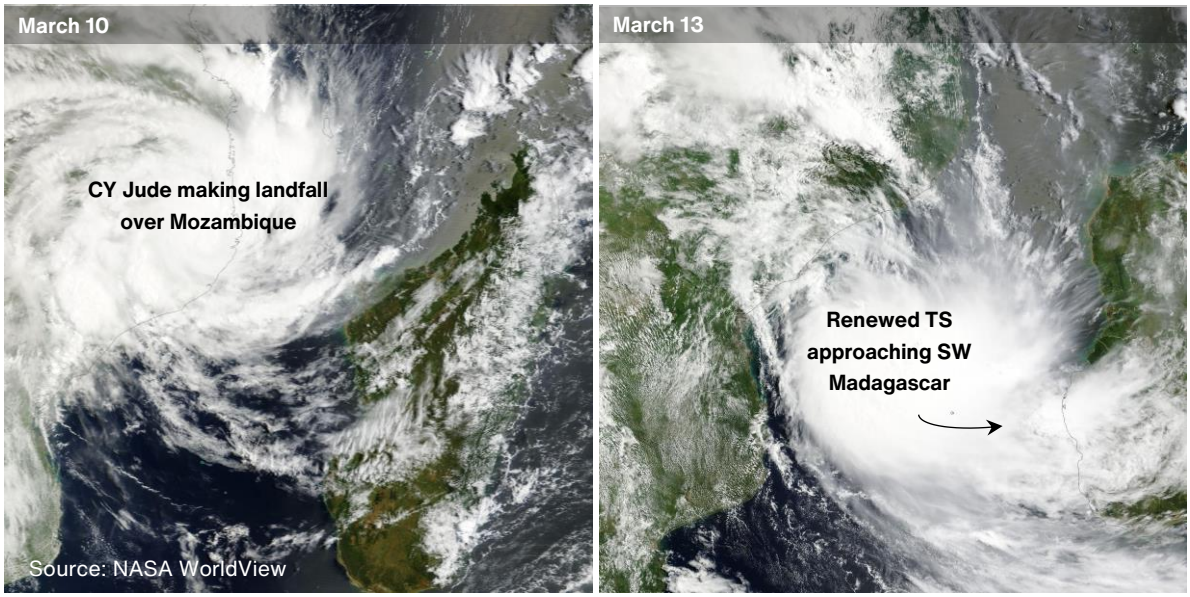
Southeastern Africa: Cyclone Jude

Overview

Cyclone Jude has affected multiple countries in Southeastern Africa since March 10, resulting in casualties and material losses in Mozambique and Malawi due to heavy rains, extensive flooding, and strong winds. Further losses are anticipated following the expected landfall in southwestern Madagascar.

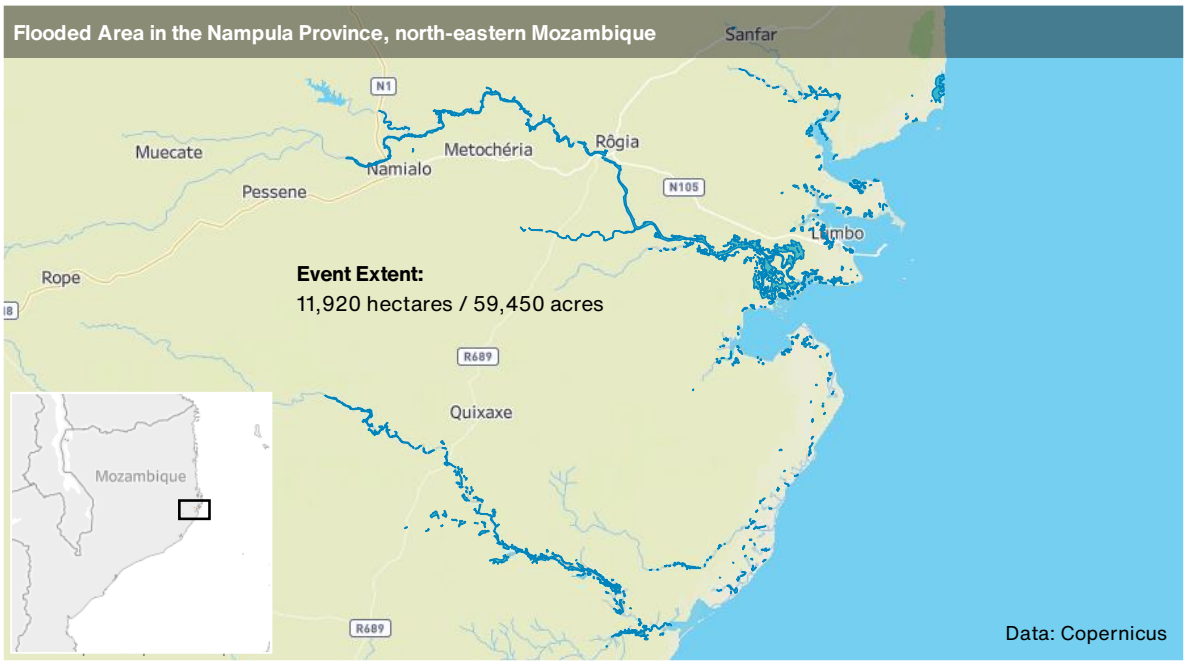
Meteorological Recap

Météo-France began monitoring a disturbance south of the Chagos Islands on March 6. The system reached Tropical Storm status on March 8 and was named Jude. On March 10, Jude made landfall near Cabaceira Grande in north-eastern Mozambique as a Category 1 storm, with maximum sustained winds of up to 120 kph (75 mph). After moving inland through Mozambique and southern Malawi, Jude returned to the Mozambique Channel, where it intensified into a tropical storm. It then tracked towards Madagascar, with a second landfall expected over the south-western part of the island on March 14.



Event Details

The provinces of Nampula, Zambezia, and Tete in **Mozambique** experienced the initial impact of the cyclonic storm. As of March 13, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) reported nine fatalities, mainly in the Nacala-Porto municipality, at least 20 injuries, and over 100,000 people affected. Flooding possibly damaged thousands of houses across the aforementioned provinces. In addition, thousands of individuals were impacted or displaced in southern **Malawi**. Further impacts are anticipated in **Madagascar** following the storm's second landfall on March 14.


Flooded Area in the Nampula Province, north-eastern Mozambique
Sanfar
N1
Muecate
Metochéria
Rôgia
Namialo
Pessene
N105
Lumbo
Rope
Event Extent:
11,920 hectares / 59,450 acres
R689
Quixaxe
Mozambique
R689
Data: Copernicus

Natural Catastrophes: In Brief

Landslide (Colombia)

Heavy rainfall triggered a landslide in El Encano town in southern Colombia on March 8, causing four deaths, dozens of rescues, and damage to around 65 homes and roads.

Severe Convective Storm (United States)

Severe weather occurred in central Florida on March 10. An EF-2 tornado with peak winds of 115 mph (185 kph) hit the town of Lake Mary, north of Orlando. The tornado caused significant damage, including to a broadcast station that was reporting live on the event.

Flooding & Landslides (Ecuador) - Update

Heavy rains, widespread flooding, and landslides have severely impacted Ecuador's western provinces of Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Loja, and Chimborazo since the rainy season began. As of March 12, almost 93,000 people have been affected, with 19 fatalities and dozens injured. Over 26,000 houses have been affected, including 117 destroyed structures, according to the latest report by the National Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR). Further loss development is anticipated.

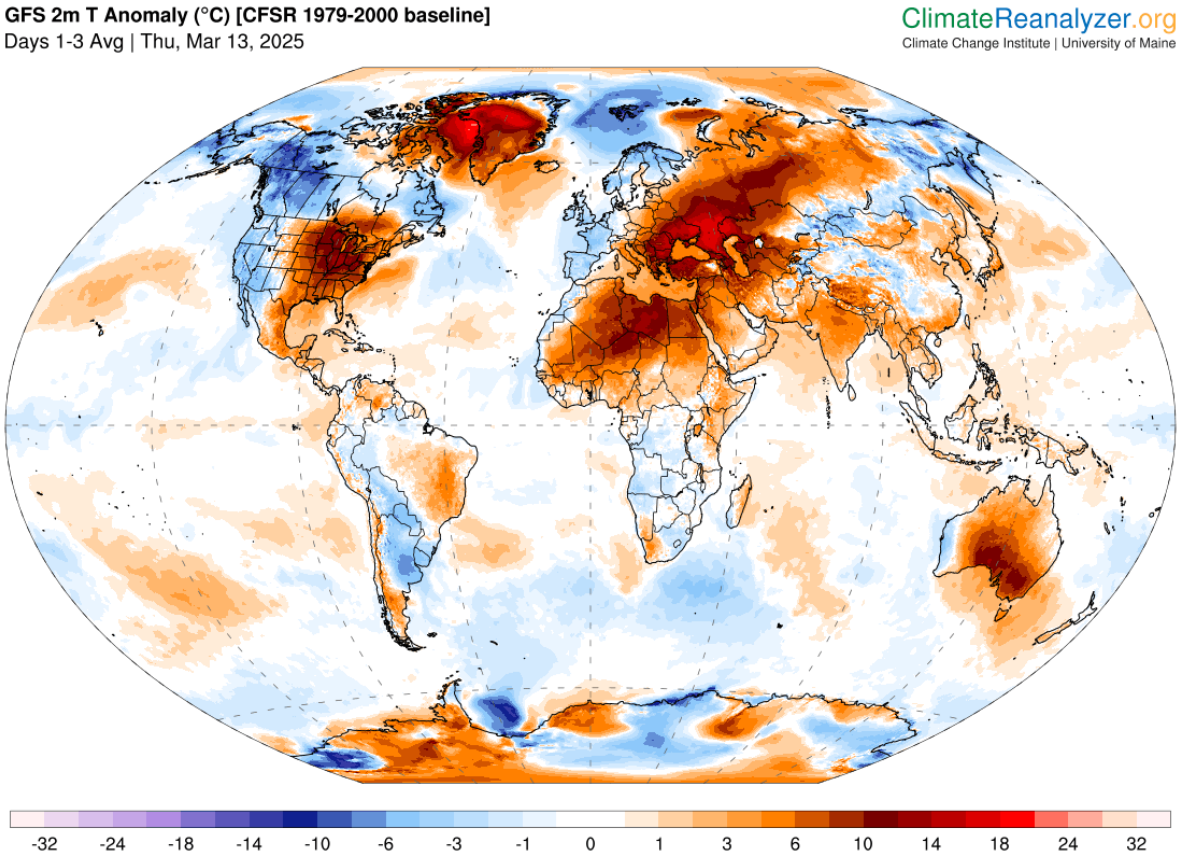
Flooding (Malaysia)

As of March 8, heavy rainfall in Sabah, Malaysia caused flooding, damaging buildings and infrastructure and displacing people. By March 10, the International Federation of Red Cross reported 4,555 people sheltered. So far, 37 villages in Tenom, Beaufort, Membakut, and Sook districts are affected. As of March 13, the Kinabatangan River's water level is still expected to rise, despite forecasts of mild rains in Sabah.

Earthquake (Italy)

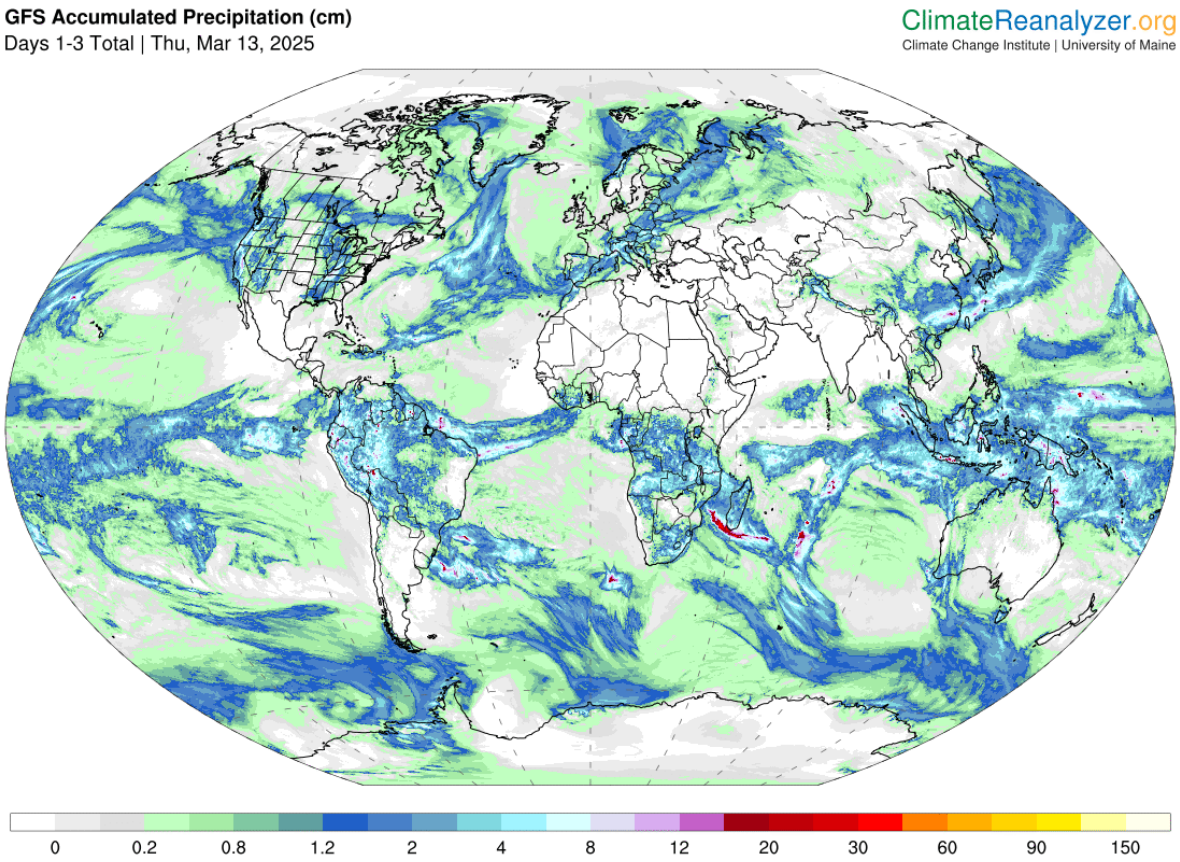
A 4.2-magnitude earthquake, with an epicenter located just 20 km (12.4 mi) from the Italian city of Naples, occurred on March 13, according to USGS. Italian seismologists have reported the quake at a slightly higher magnitude of 4.4. The tremors were widely felt across Naples, leading to disruptions in power supplies in parts of the city. In the aftermath of the initial shock, dozens of aftershocks have been recorded, heightening concerns among residents and emergency services. Initially, structural damage to several buildings has been reported, along with numerous damaged cars.

Global Temperature Anomaly Forecast



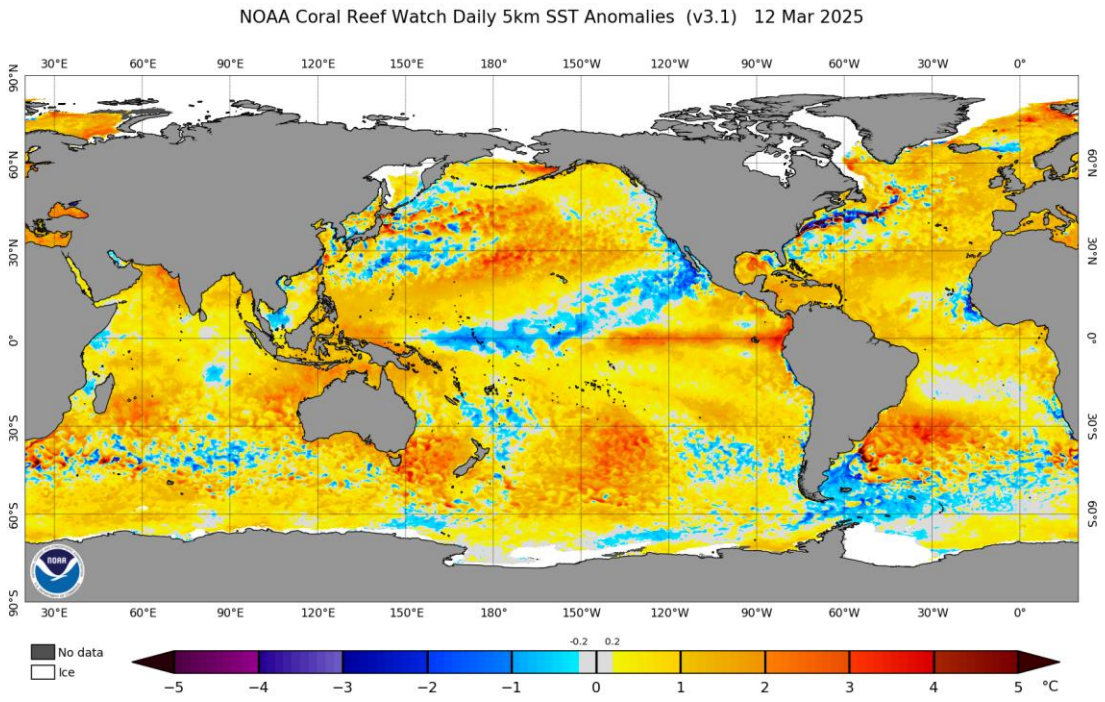
Source: Climate Reanalyzer, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, USA

Global Precipitation Forecast

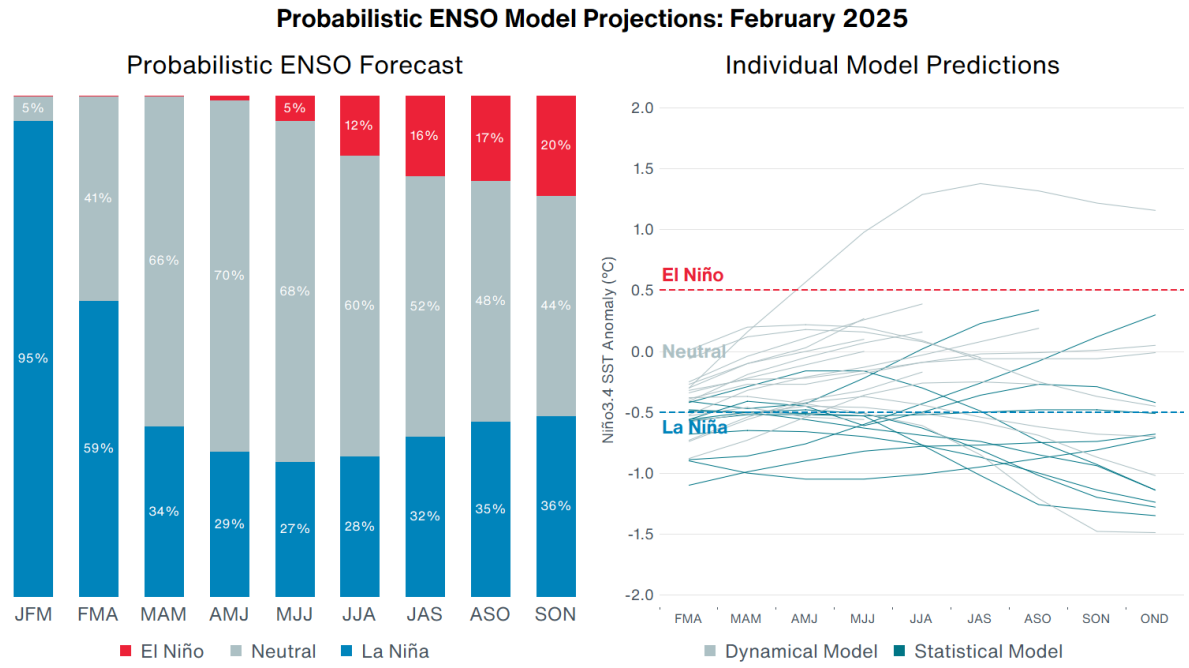


Source: Climate Reanalyzer, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, USA

Weekly Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Maps (°C)



El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



El Niño: *Warm phase of an ENSO cycle. Sea surface temperatures of +0.5°C occur across the east-central equatorial Pacific.*

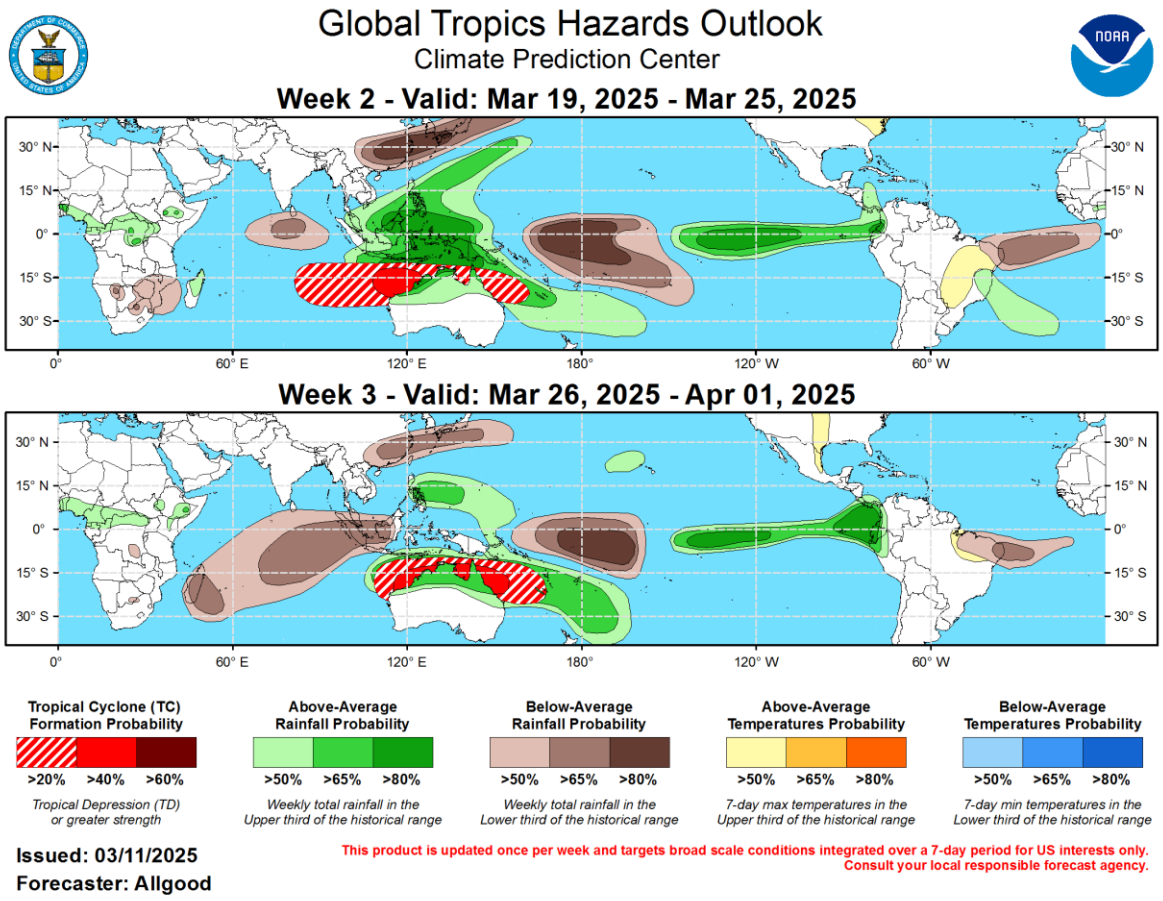
La Niña: *Cool phase of an ENSO cycle. Sea surface temperatures of -0.5°C occur across the east-central equatorial Pacific.*

Neutral: *A period when neither El Niño nor La Niña conditions are present.*

El Niño (La Niña) is a phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific Ocean characterized by a five consecutive 3-month running mean of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region that is above the threshold of +0.5°C (-0.5°C). This is known as the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI).

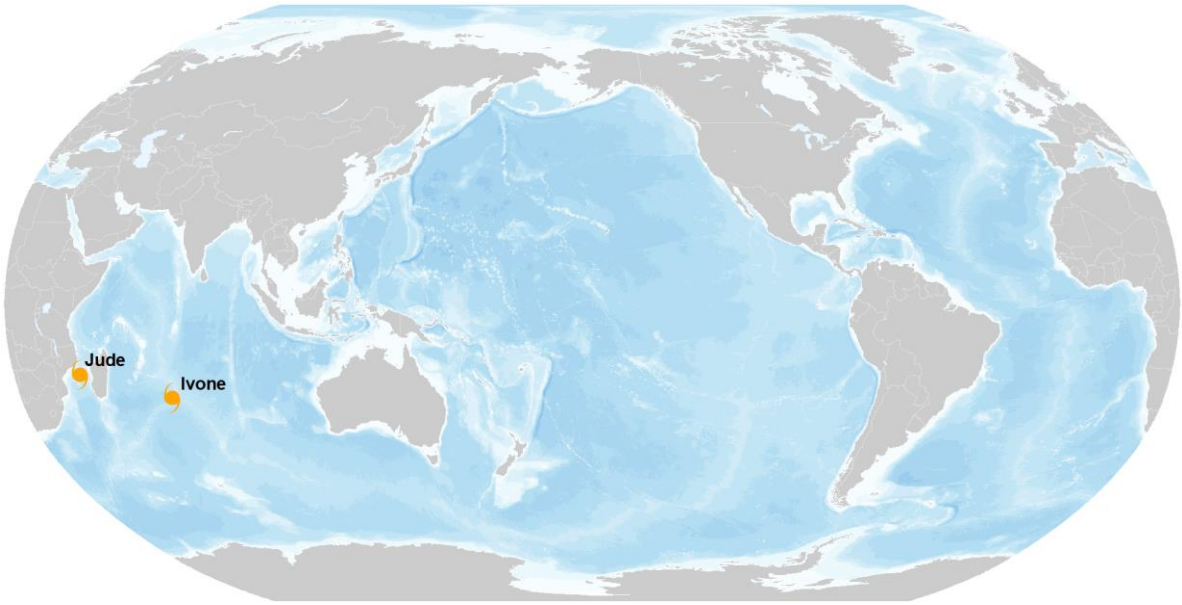
Source: NOAA, Columbia University | Graphic: Aon Catastrophe Insight

Global Tropics Outlook



Source: Climate Prediction Center (NOAA)

Current Tropical Cyclone Activity



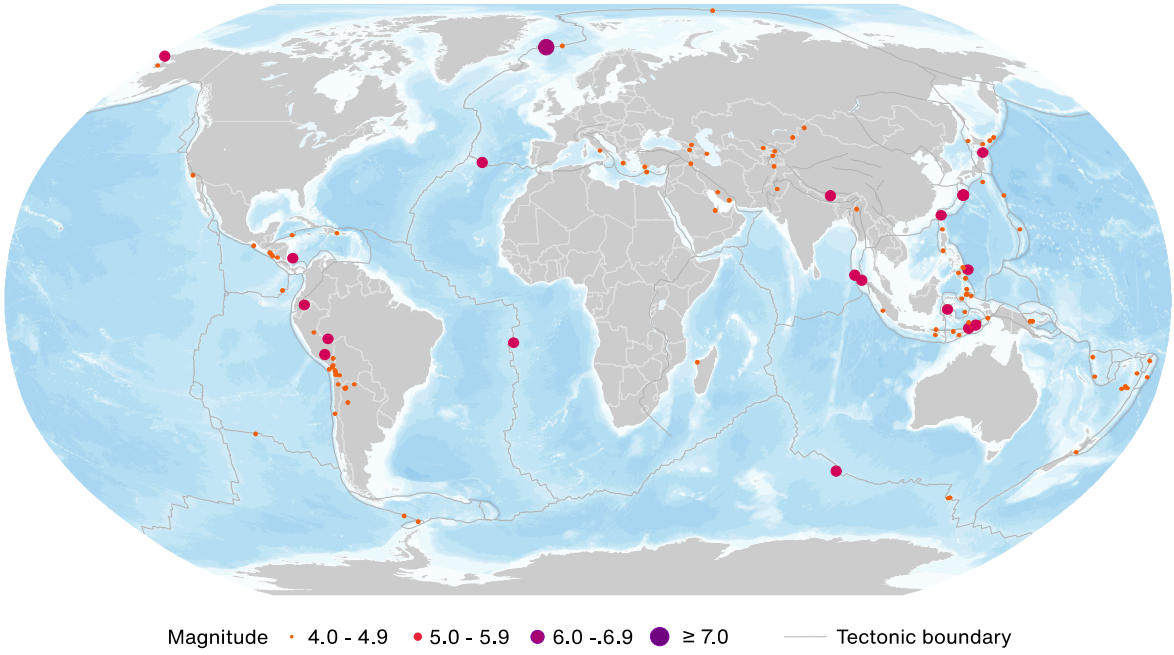
Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4 Category 5

Name	Location	Winds	Center
TS Jude	21.1S, 39.5E	50	89 mi (143 km) NNW from Europa Island
TS Ivone	23.8S, 66.7E	40	654 mi (1,052 km) ESE from Port Louis, Mauritius

* TD: Tropical Depression, TS: Tropical Storm, HU: Hurricane, TY: Typhoon, CY: Cyclone
** N: North, S: South, E: East, W: West, NW: Northwest, NE: Northeast, SE: Southeast, SW: Southwest

Source: National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Central Pacific Hurricane Center (NOAA)

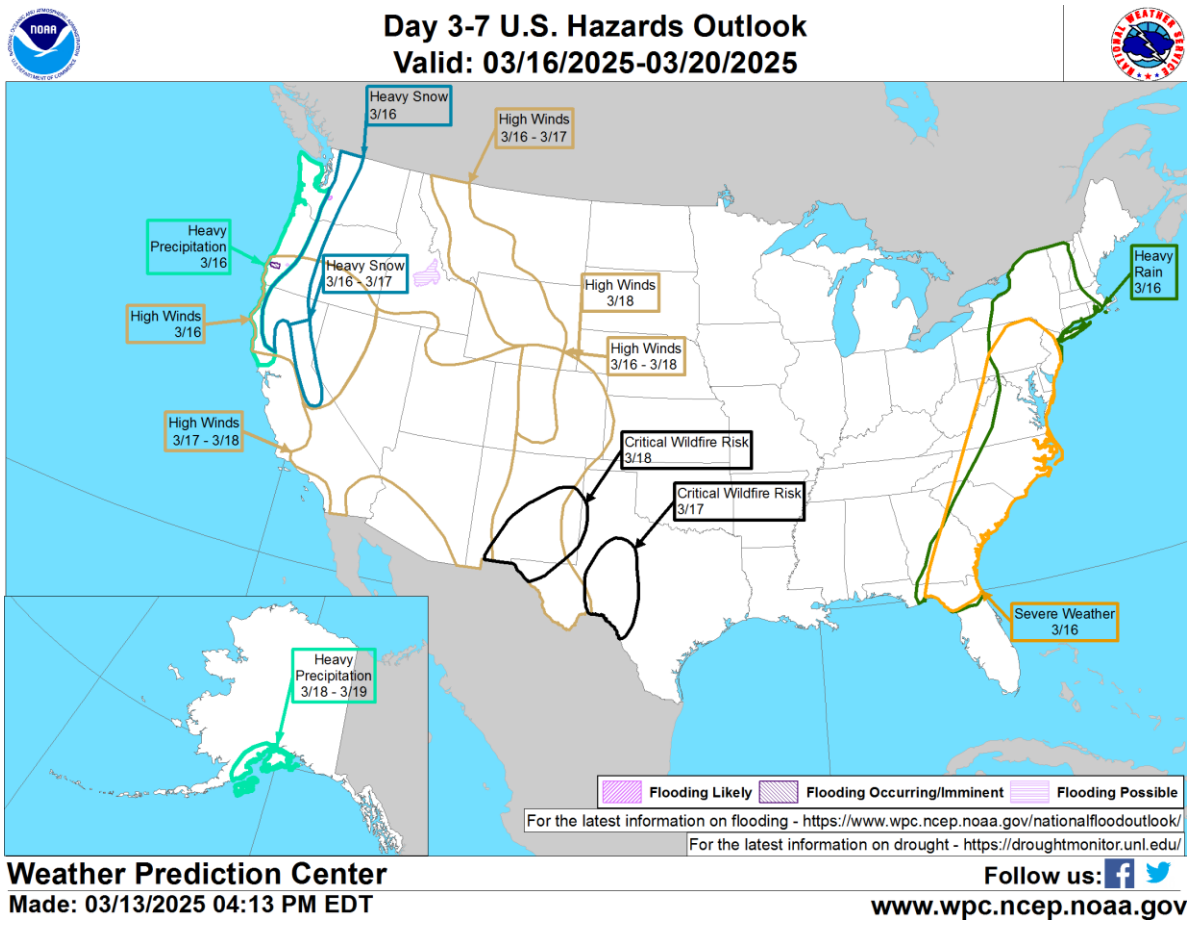
Global Earthquake Activity (≥M4.0): March 7-13



Date (UTC)	Location	Magnitude	Epicenter
3/10/2025	71.2N, 8.19W	6.5	36 km (22 mi) NNE of Olonkinbyen, Svalbard

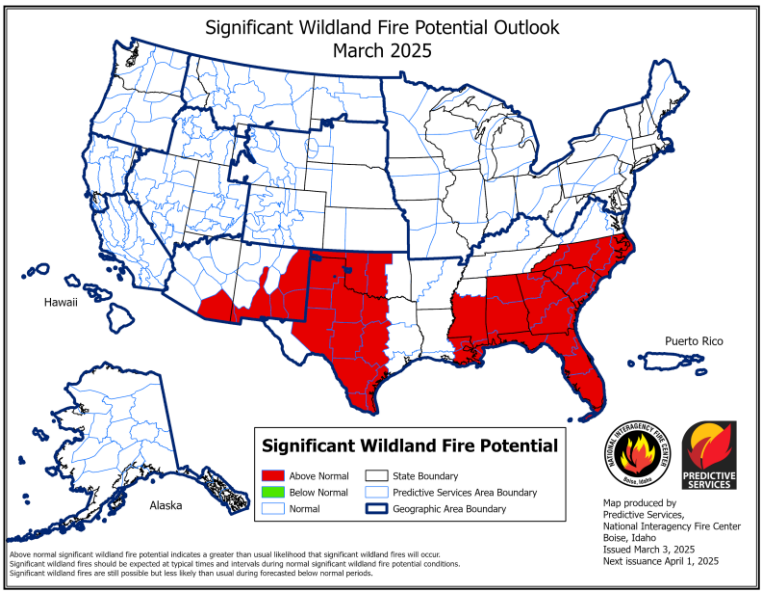
Source: United States Geological Survey

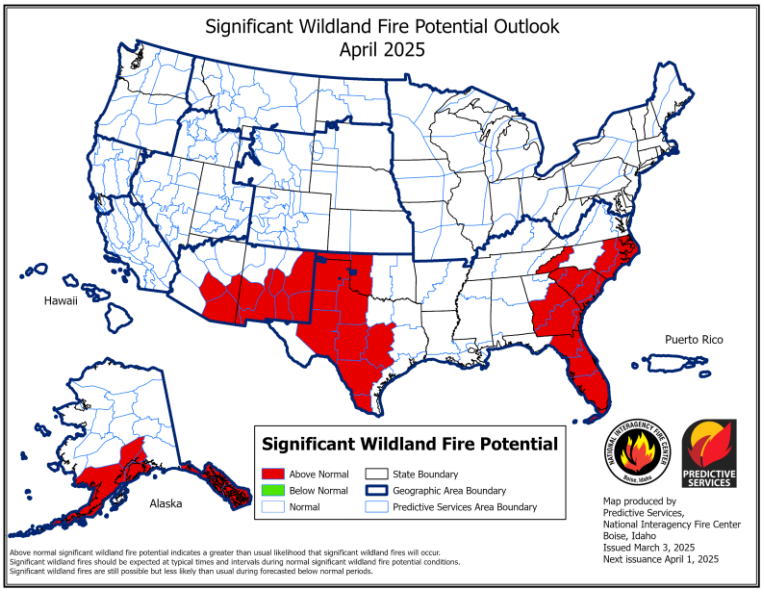
U.S. Hazard Outlook



Source: Climate Prediction Center (NOAA)

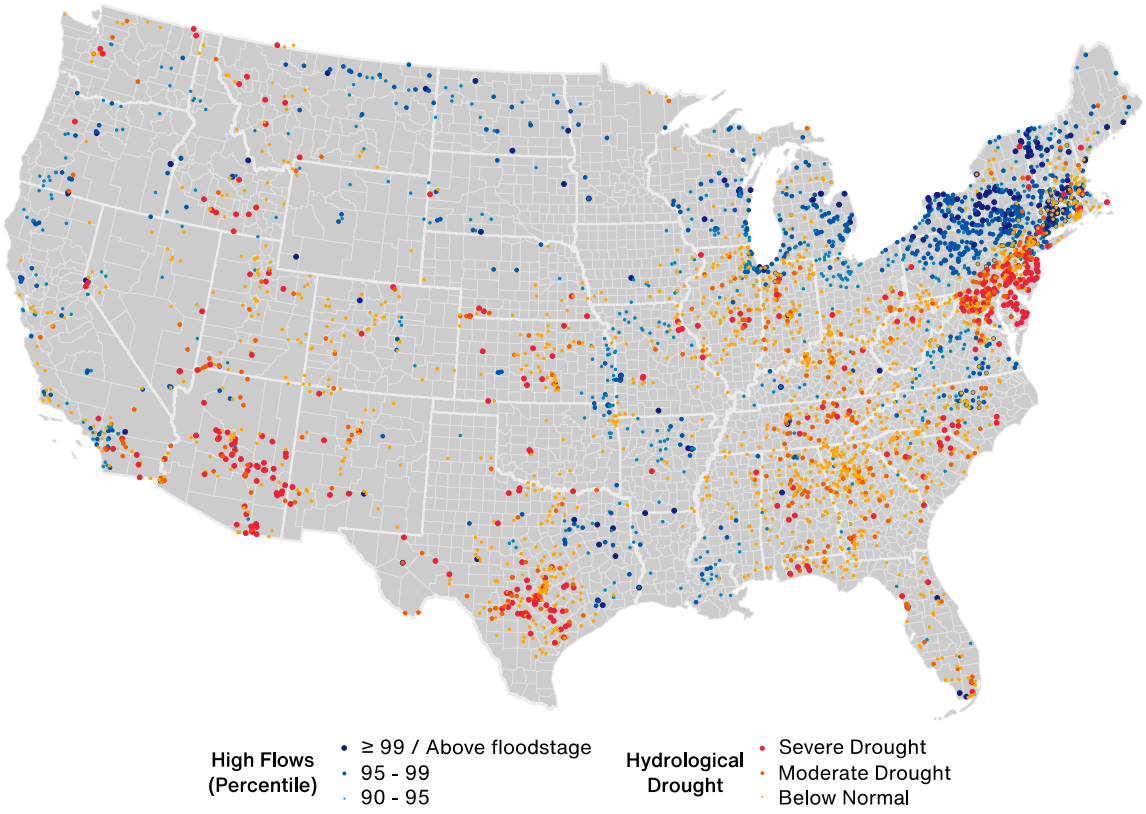
U.S. Wildfire: Significant Fire Risk Outlook & Activity





Source: NIFC

U.S. Current Riverine Flood Risk



A ≥99th percentile indicates that estimated streamflow is greater than the 99th percentile for all days of the year. This methodology also applies for the other two categories. A steam in a state of severe drought has 7-day average streamflow of less than or equal to the 5th percentile for this day of the year. Moderate drought indicates that estimated 7-day streamflow is between the 6th and 9th percentile for this day of the year and 'below normal' state is between 10th and 24th percentile.

Source: United States Geological Survey

Source Information

Australia: Cyclone Alfred (Update)

Bureau of Meteorology of Australia (BoM)
Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC)
Insurance Council of Australia (ICA)
New South Wales State Emergency Services (SES)
Queensland Fire Department (FD)

Argentina: Flooding

Ejército Argentino
Argentina flooding death toll rises to 16, two girls missing, *Voice of America*
Deadly floods engulf Argentine city after fierce storm, *BBC*
Argentina floods kill at least 10 in Bahia Blanca port city, *Reuters*
There are 56 schools in Bahía Blanca with serious damage and for now classes will not be resumed, *TN*

Southeastern Africa: Cyclone Jude

NASA Worldview
Météo-France

Natural Catastrophes: In Brief

UN OCHA
Secretariat of Risk Management of Ecuador (SGR)
U.S. Geological Survey

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