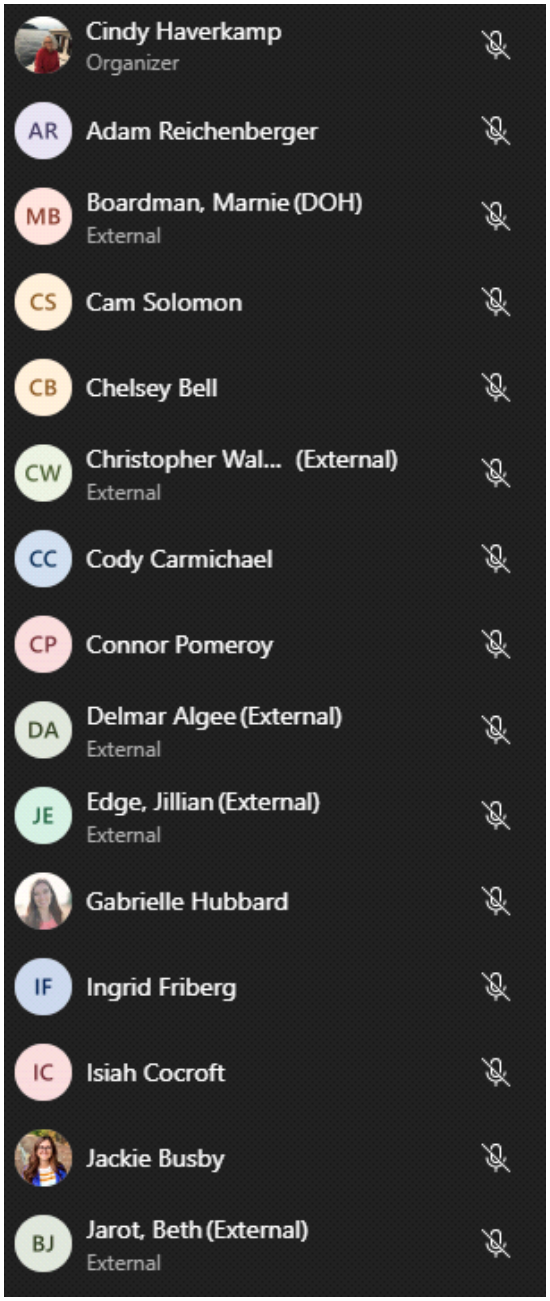
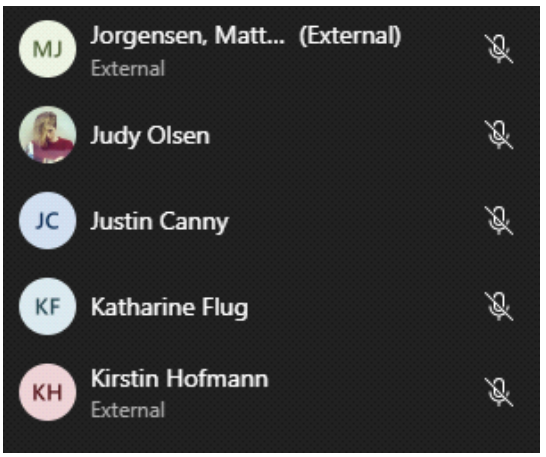
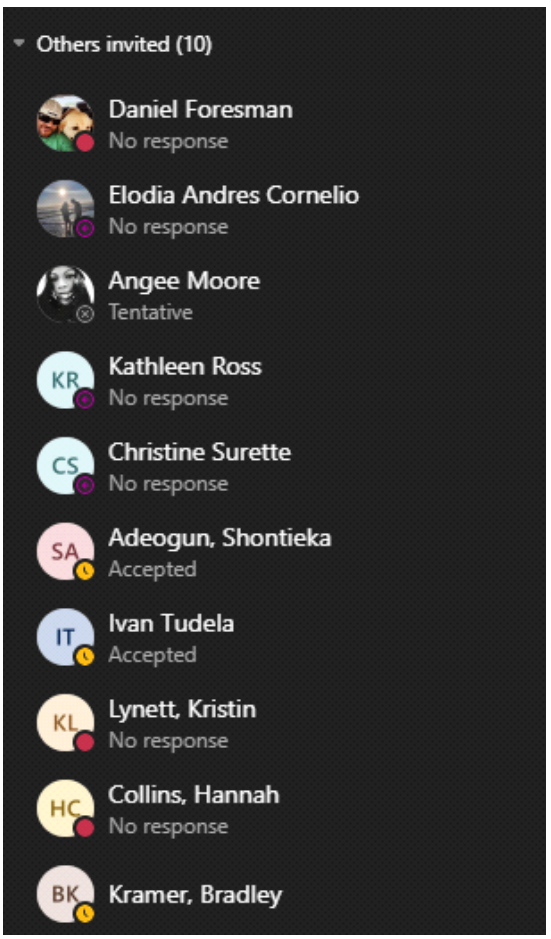
Reid Wolcott Heat Risk Tool Training

Friday, December 2, 2022 11:54 AM

29 attendees:





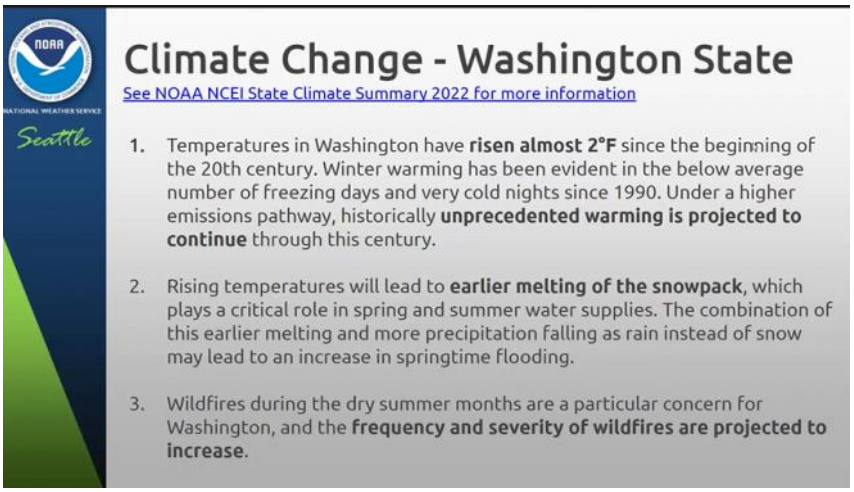


Notes: Heat highly predictable-up to a week in advance.
In terms of health impacts, Heat is the most deadly in the US.

- In PNW, there is low access to AC
- Our houses are designed to trap heat (s facing windows, well-insulated)
- Indoor temps typically peak AFTER the outdoor temp is cooler than the indoor temp
- Overnight low temps critically important - consider when cooling centers are open.

Increased heat=reduced air quality
Also impacts to agriculture and aquaculture.

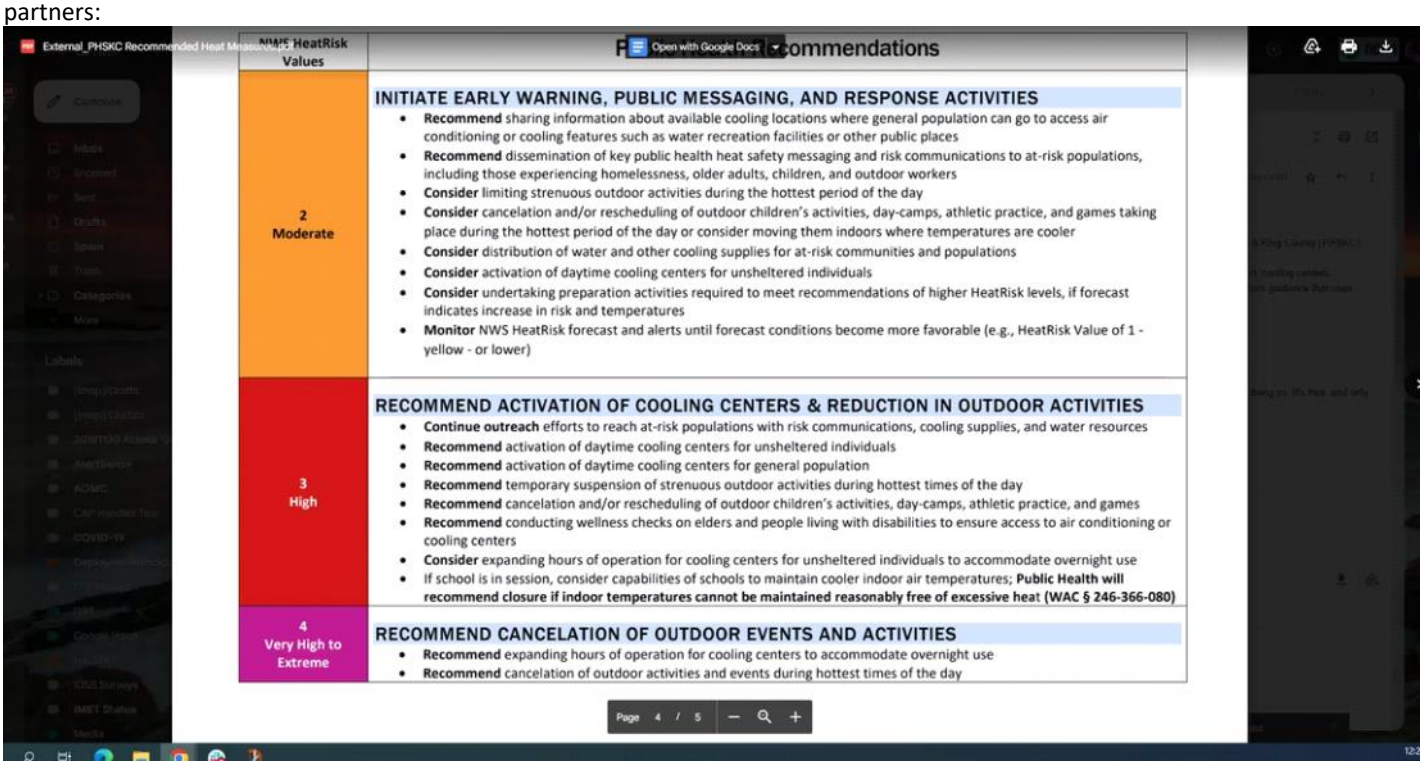
King County completed an Urban Heat Island map:
https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/2021-summary-report-heat-watch-seattle-king-county.pdf.



Heat Index - how the air "feels" like wind chill - depends on humidity climatology, which we don't really have here.
We Bulb Globe Temp - aggregates temp, humidity, wind, solar radiation - useful for acclimatized, healthy, physically active people. Not good for judging effects on vulnerable pops. Requires special equipment.
Heat Risk - aggregates local climatology, forecast (daily high and low), impacts identifies groups most at risk (based on CDC calculations). Heat Risk levels tied to potential actions folks can take.

Provided daily
Available 7 days in advance

Goal: alignment. Jillian Edge shared from PHSea-King PHEPR. Helped people determine when to open cooling centers, etc. Created a Public Health Recommendations list based on NWS HeatRisk Values for partners:



County still uses Heat Watch/Warning/Advisory as threshold for activation, understanding that folks in different parts of the county will meet thresholds at different times.

Multnomah County also uses it. LHJs in the SW were early adopters. Thurston Co. also met with Reid about it, as well.

NWS doesn't get data about cold and heat-related injury as much as they need. Looking for the state to provide leadership. Wants Sit Reps and AARs, if possible. They can also partner with us DURING an activation to provide location-specific forecasts.

Getting people on board with this?

- Outreach about the Heat Risk tool is very important
- L&I still uses Heat Index - this caused internal challenges (HR)
- Positive feedback from local emergency managers! Gratitude around creating an alignment. This allowed for great pre-planning - having conversations 7 days out.
- LOTS of presentations that were trainings in disguise though DEM and NWHCRN
- Reid: People are asking for this more and more and for different hazards.
- Location-specific data tracking - what are we tracking? How will it be used? Can the data inform action? How can location-specific data be tied to long-term mitigation? Visitors can impact the data, as can issues around homelessness - hospital zip code used instead of the actual location the homeless person was found. What is a significant number? How are partners impacted? See: Heat Impact tracking sheet. Curiosity: pediatric falls? Kids falling out of windows?

NWS and PHSea-King had a mini-AAR and this came out:
Probabilistic forecasting needed, especially at the thresholds (btwn orange and red, for example)

Judy: Can we make retrospective requests for info. Yes, got o HeatRisk tool