



Environmental Health training for Emergency Response

Extreme Precipitation

Thaddeus Hunt

California Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health

Containers

- Everyone in this room is free to feel what they feel
 - And for their feelings to be respected
- If anyone would like us to take a break, simply give us a break signal
- Anyone may, at anytime, leave this room and make some space for themselves
- Everyone in this room will respect your needs

Actions

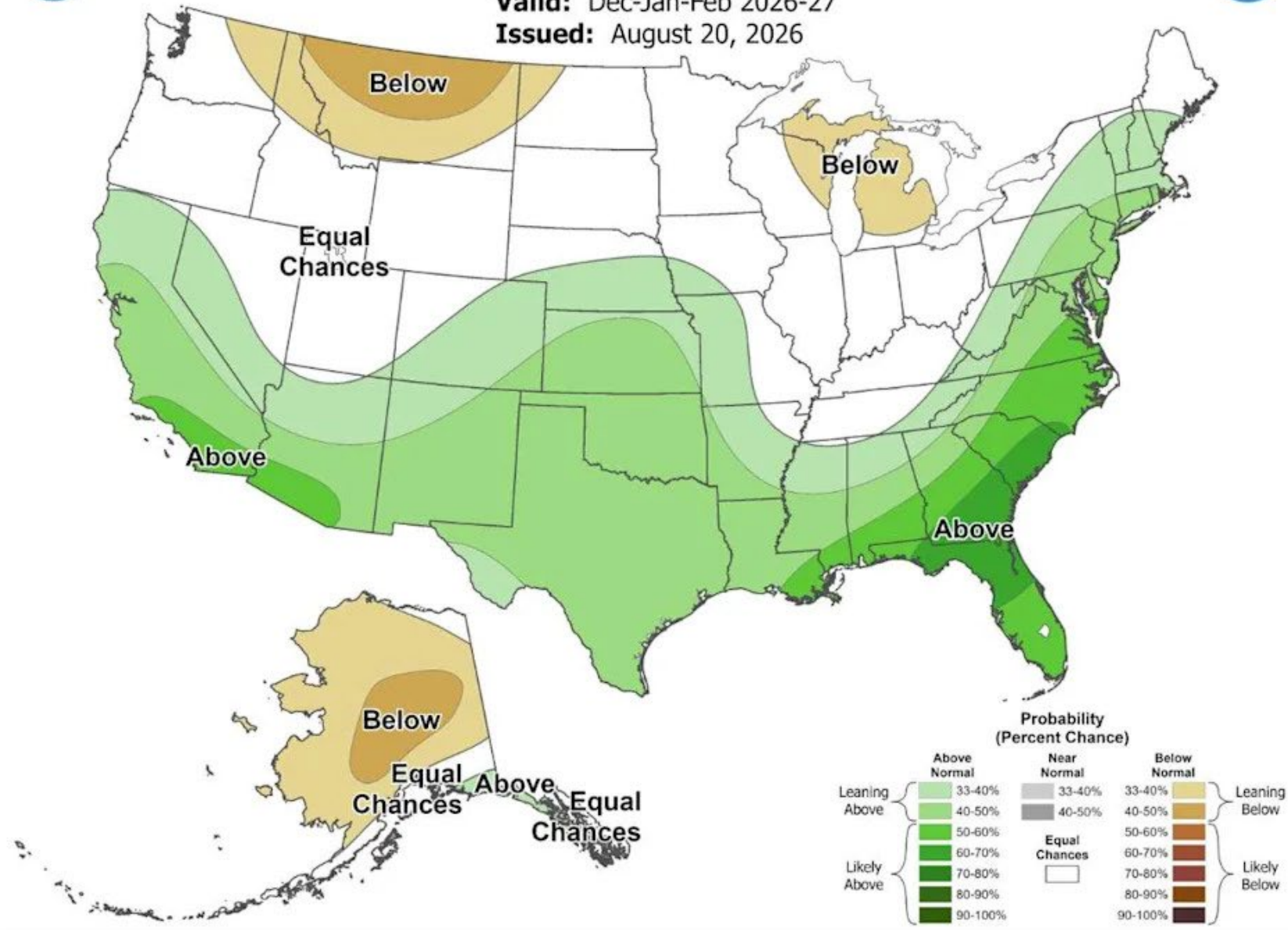
- Renew your disaster management relationships #1
- Develop your relationships with your environmental health specialists
- Develop your environmental health workforce and capabilities
- Review, update, and test your disaster plans for environmental health impacts and precipitation events



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2026-27

Issued: August 20, 2026



ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Who is Environmental Health?

What does Environmental Health do?

When disaster strikes, how can Environmental Health help?

Where does Environmental Health fit in Environmental Health Response and Recovery?

Why is it crucial to include Environmental Health in Emergency Preparedness?



WHO IS ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH?

They are the ones with the clipboards, right?



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

- REHS/EHS
- Hazmat Specialists
- Drinking Water Specialists
- Wastewater Specialists
- Microbiologists
- Epidemiologists
- Health Educators
- Health Physicists
- Industrial Hygienists
- Public Health Veterinarians
- Environmental engineers
- Environmental Scientists
- Toxicologists
- Chemists
- Laboratorians
- Policy specialists/Lawyers
- Research Scientists
- Public Health Nurses

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES

STATE

CDPH

Health & Safety Code

CalEPA

Environmental
Regulations



WHAT DOES ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DO?

They look at restaurants, right?

Protecting Where We Live, Work and Play



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CAPABILITIES



Solid Waste



Wastewater



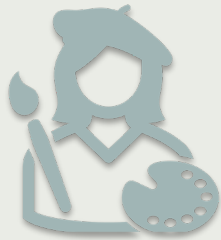
Drinking
Water



Food Safety



Water Wells



Tattoo/ Body
Art



Recreational
Health



Hazardous
Materials



Hazardous/
Medical Waste



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

How can Environmental Health help?

Grey Sky Environmental Health



Emergency
Mgmt

Debris Mgmt
& Haz Mat

Responder
Safety

Drinking
Water

Wastewater

Food
Safety

Vector
Control

Mass Care &
Sheltering

Example: Park Fire Environmental Health Activities

- Shelter assessments
- Small Public Water Systems
- Food safety at survivor and responder shelters
- Reoccupation of buildings
- Local Assistance Centers – well and septic rebuild, debris removal, animals, etc.
- Carcass removal



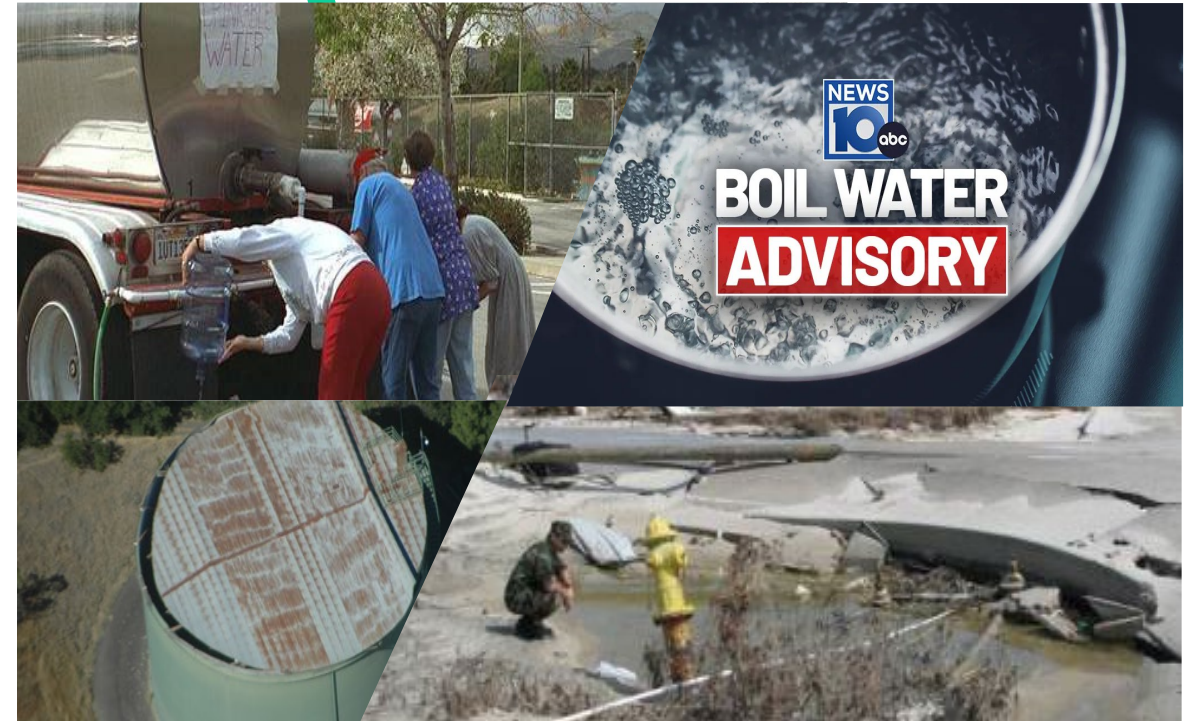
FOOD SAFETY

- Mass feeding operations
- Focus on the 5 CDC Risk Factors
- Donated food guidance
- Keeping food facilities open during an emergency
- Deciding what food is safe to consume or discard in affected area
- Prioritize reopening of damaged food facilities post-disaster



DRINKING WATER

- Damage assessments
- Field Sampling/ testing
- Arrange alternative water sources
- Guidance to private well owners, water system operators
- Public Notifications – Boil Water, Do Not Drink, Do Not Use





WASTEWATER

- Damage assessment
- Field sampling/collection
- Create alternative wastewater solutions
- Guidance to operators, community
- Public Notifications and Advisories
- Responder Safety, knowledge of land use and infrastructure

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT & HAZ MAT

- Hazardous Waste Management
- ID Household Hazardous waste
- Site assessments
- Educate public on disposal methods and hazards
- Debris /ash management
- Soil contamination/ cleanup
- Air quality monitoring



SUPPORTING RESILIENCY

From Regulator to Educator

- Vector Control
- Infection Control
- Community Reception Centers
- Shelter & Mass Care Site Assessments
- DOC/EOC Staffing
- Public Messaging
- Just-in-time Training

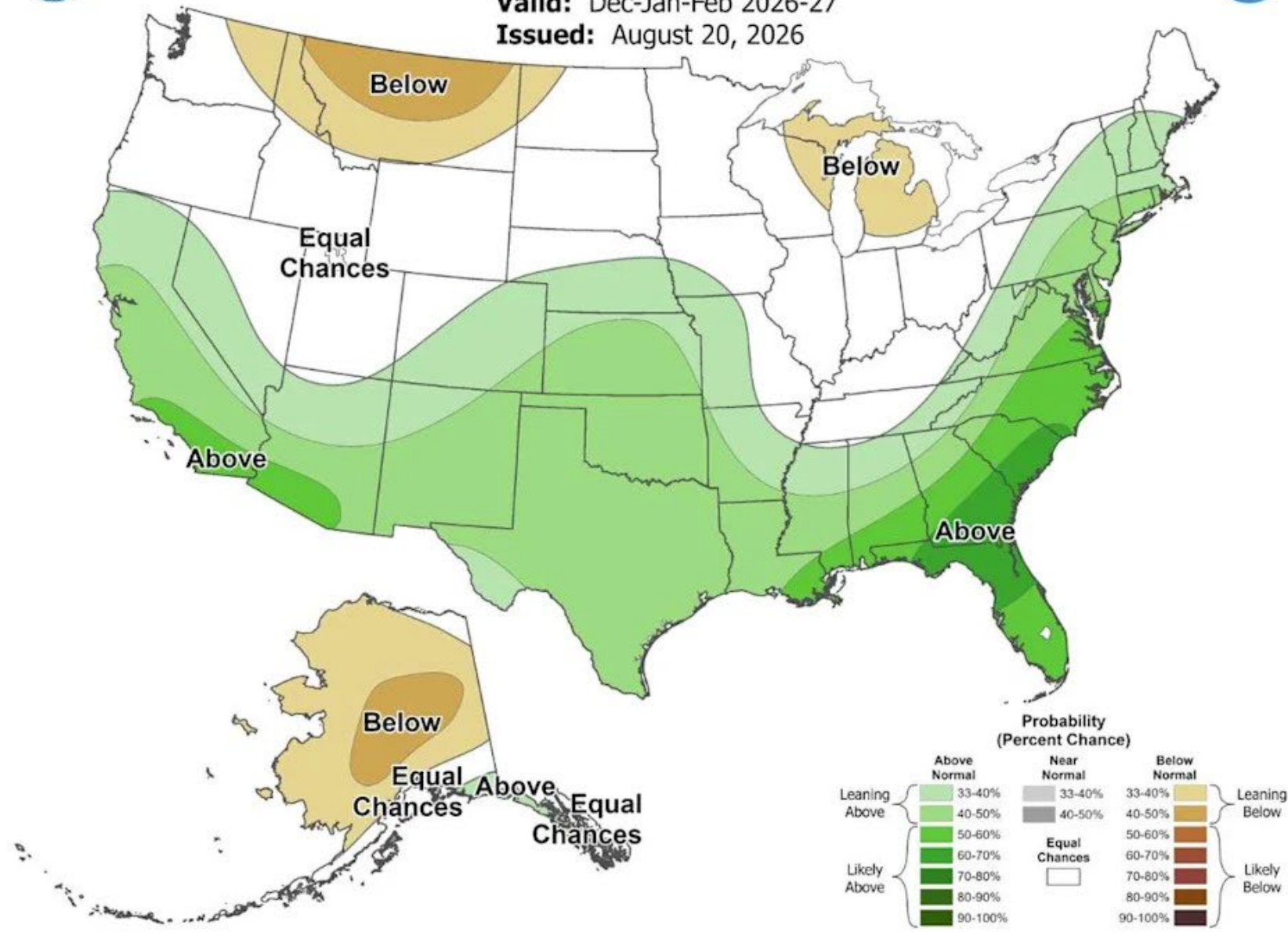




Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2026-27

Issued: August 20, 2026



Actions

- Renew your disaster management relationships #1
- Develop your relationships with your environmental health specialists
- Develop your environmental health workforce and capabilities
- Review, update, and test your disaster plans for environmental health impacts and precipitation events

SUPPORTING LOCAL READINESS: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRAINING IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE (EHTER)

- Provides Environmental Health Specialists and with awareness and hands-on training in the critical roles they will play in response or recovery.
- Connects the Environmental Health and Emergency Management communities on blue sky days
- State and National courses

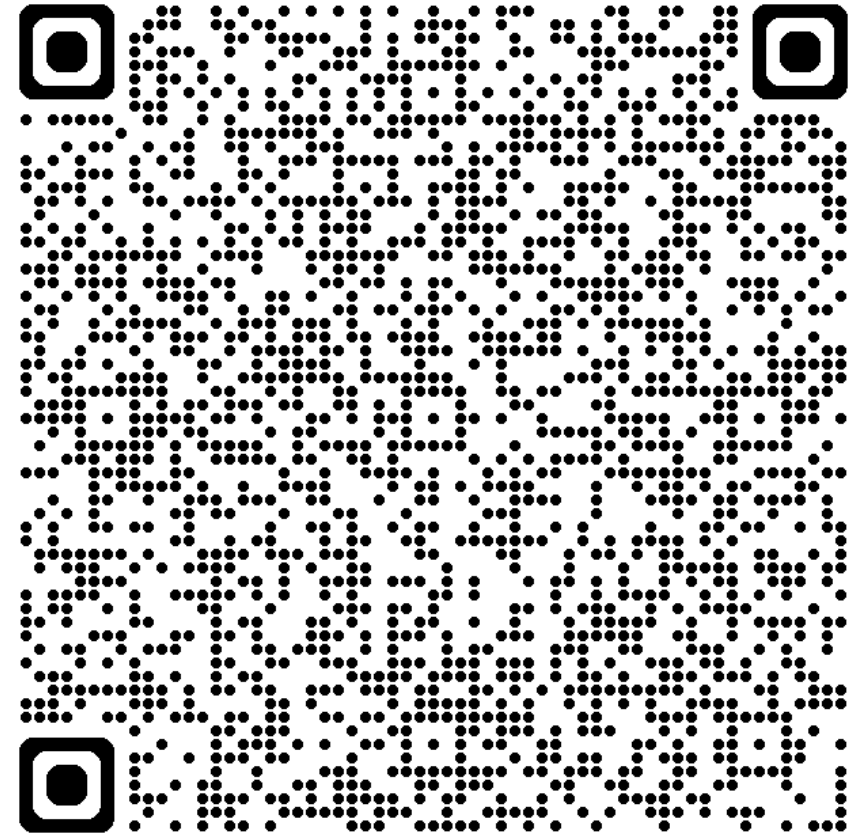


EHTER OPS 2023, Center for Domestic Preparedness

California EHTER Training Events

Awareness Level Course

Expeditionary Field Exercise
Course



FREE FEMA ENTER ONLINE COURSE

Introductory course.

Open to all who want to learn more
about environmental health
concerns in disaster response.

FEMA SID required.





QUESTIONS?



THADDEUS HUNT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR



Thaddeus.Hunt@cdph.ca.gov



(916) 754-6234



MS 0511
P.O. Box 997377
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377



<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH>

