Thunderstorm and Heat Event: June 30-July 4,2026

Synopsis

Saturday evening's severe thunderstorms produced widespread damage across Connecticut as a result of widespread straight-line winds with enhanced downdrafts, high-density cloud-to-ground lightning, torrential rainfall, and isolated hail. While widespread hazard level sustained winds and gusts were recorded into the 40 - 50+ mph range, isolated to scattered wind gusts likely approached 70-80 mph based on NWS doppler radar-estimations. This resulted in extensive tree damage across the state, creating nearly 2,000 trouble spots on the system. Downed trees and limbs damaged electric infrastructure, blocked roadways, and caused widespread outages, requiring a sustained, multi-day restoration effort.

Reliability Reporting - Eversource Daily Event Summary for CT, EMA, NH, WMA

Start Date	CT	EMA-CAPE/VINEYARD	EMA-METRO WEST/METRO BOSTON	EMA-SOUTH MA	NH	WMA	Total
6/30/2026	98	5	31	3	40	25	**202**
7/1/2026	153	13	42	20	50	41	**319**
7/2/2026	220	30	87	37	175	55	**604**
7/3/2026	200	99	49	67	88	18	**521**
7/4/2026	1198	76	33	18	44	14	**1383**
Total	**1869**	**223**	**242**	**145**	**397**	**153**	**3029**

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D. Scerbo, Meteorologist

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June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

NWS Technical Weather Discussions
ALB, OKX, and BOX Microsoft Word Document

Key Take-aways:

1. Not until July 1 and 2 did the NWS forecast technical discussions began to identify the potential for scattered, potentially strong thunderstorms over the upcoming holiday weekend

2. The CT region that appeared to have experienced the highest amount of extensive damage was Litchfield County which is covered by NWS Albany Forecast Office. Somewhat lesser extensive damage was experienced over western Hartford County (covered by the NWS Boston Forecast Office); northern portions of Fairfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties down to New London County (all covered by the NWS Upton NY Forecast Office

3. Not until Friday July 3rd at 1200 hours did the Storm Prediction Center issue it's "Slight" Categorical Outlook for western half of CT effective through Saturday July 4 at 0800 hours. The official definition of "Slight": "Scattered severe storms possible. Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms**".** ***Note that predicted quantification of wind speeds and/or wind gusts are not included in this definition; nor any of the other official Categorical Outlook definitions.***

4. ***Roughly 12 hours later i.e., at 0200 hours Saturday July 4, the SPC actually backed off it's categorical outlook from "Slight" (as defined above) to "Marginal" Categorical Outlook for southwestern CT for the period from 0800 hours Saturday through 0800 hours Sunday.*** The official definition of "Marginal" is: Isolated severe storms possible; limited in duration, coverage and/or intensity." The SPC placed all other regions of CT under the relatively minor "General" thunderstorm category; "No severe thunderstorms expected."

5. ***Finally, six hours later, the SPC reintroduced a more extensive coverage of the "Slight" Categorical Outlook across most of CT except the northeast corner, effective from 0900 hours Saturday through 0800 hours Sunday*.**

6. The NWS Forecast Offices referenced in point #2 above followed suite with the SPC's categorical outlooks relative to each of their regional forecasts in CT.

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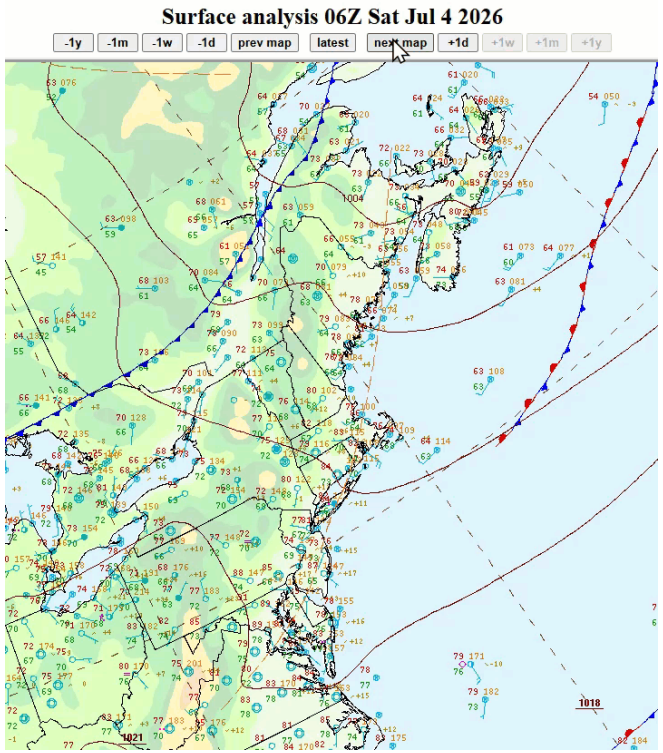
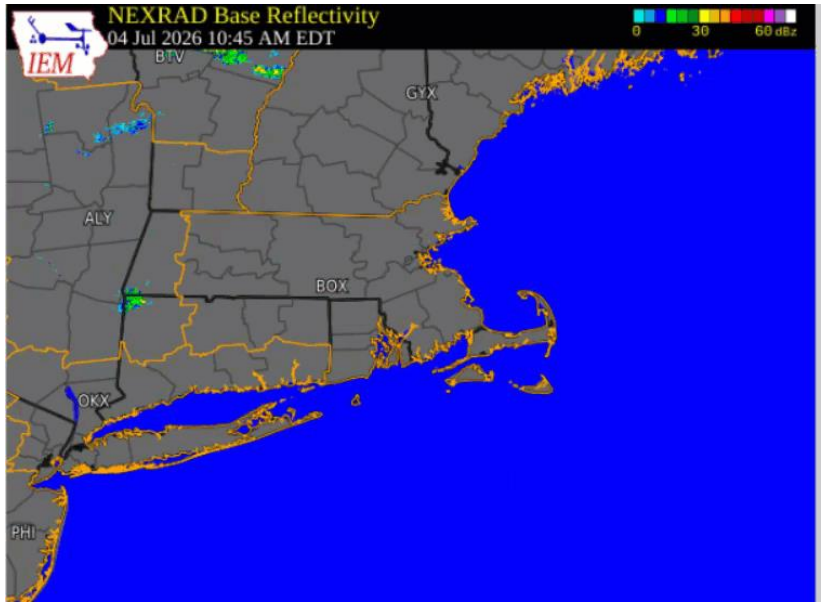
July 4, 2026 Surface and Radar Maps





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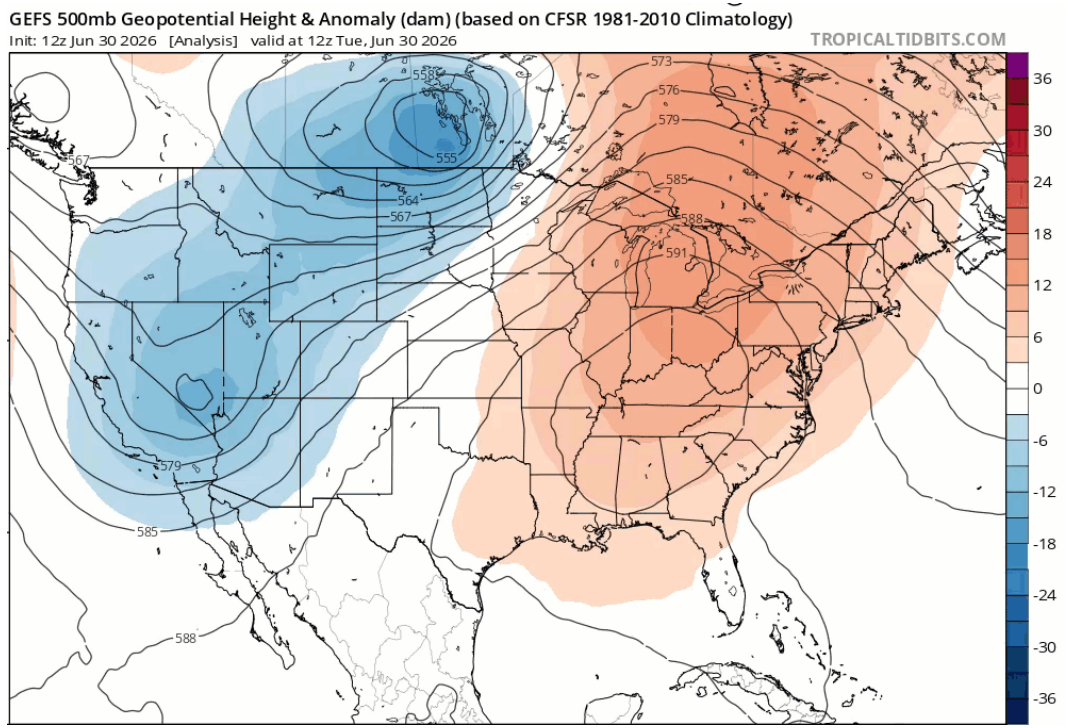
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

500mb Height Anomaly



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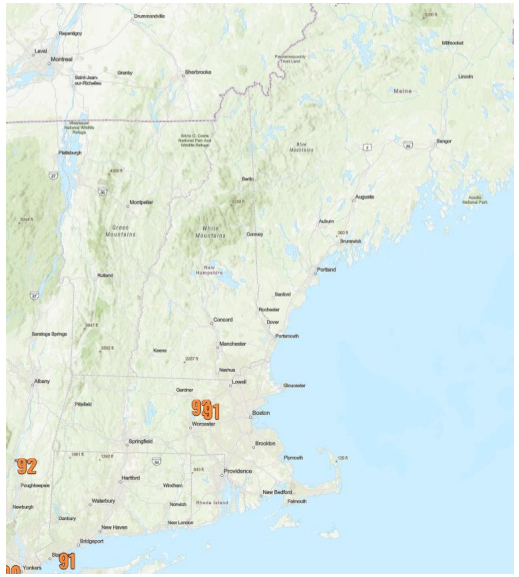
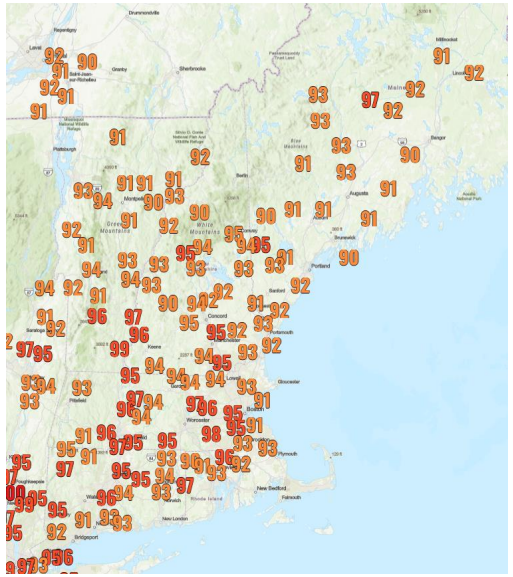
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

Observed Max Temperatures

June 30



July 1



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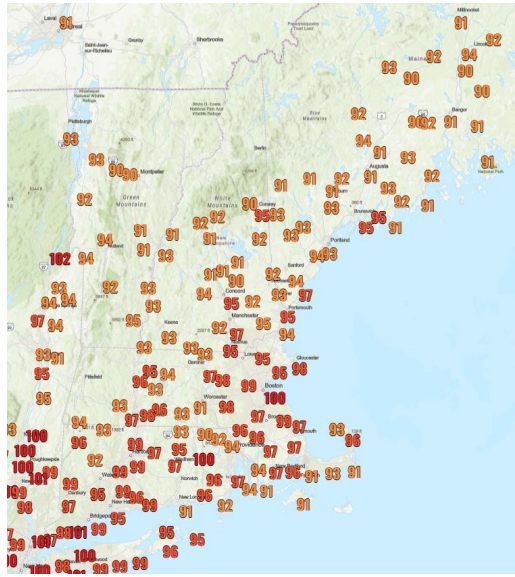

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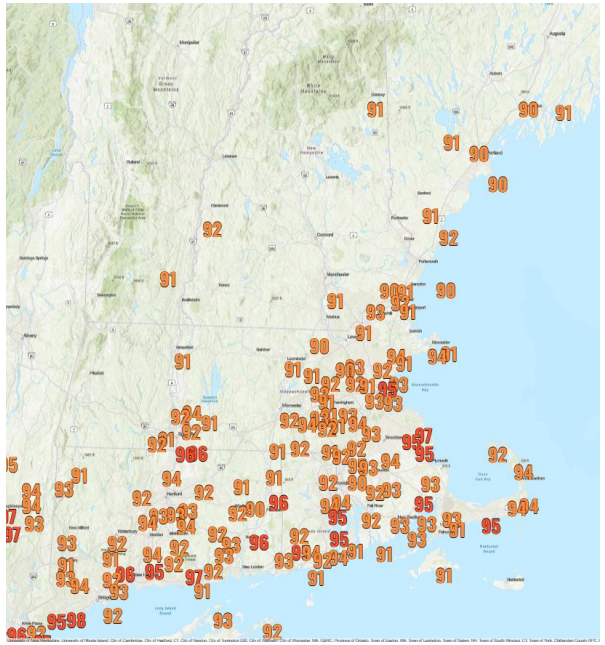
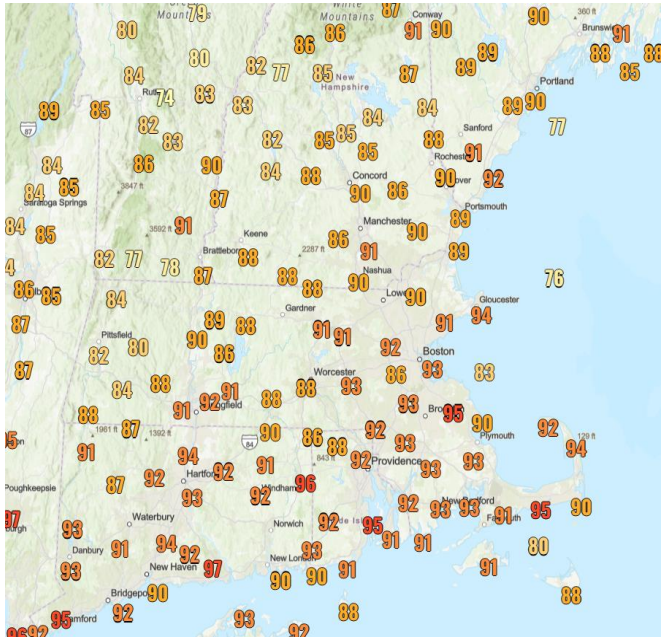
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

Observed Max Temperatures

July 3



July 4



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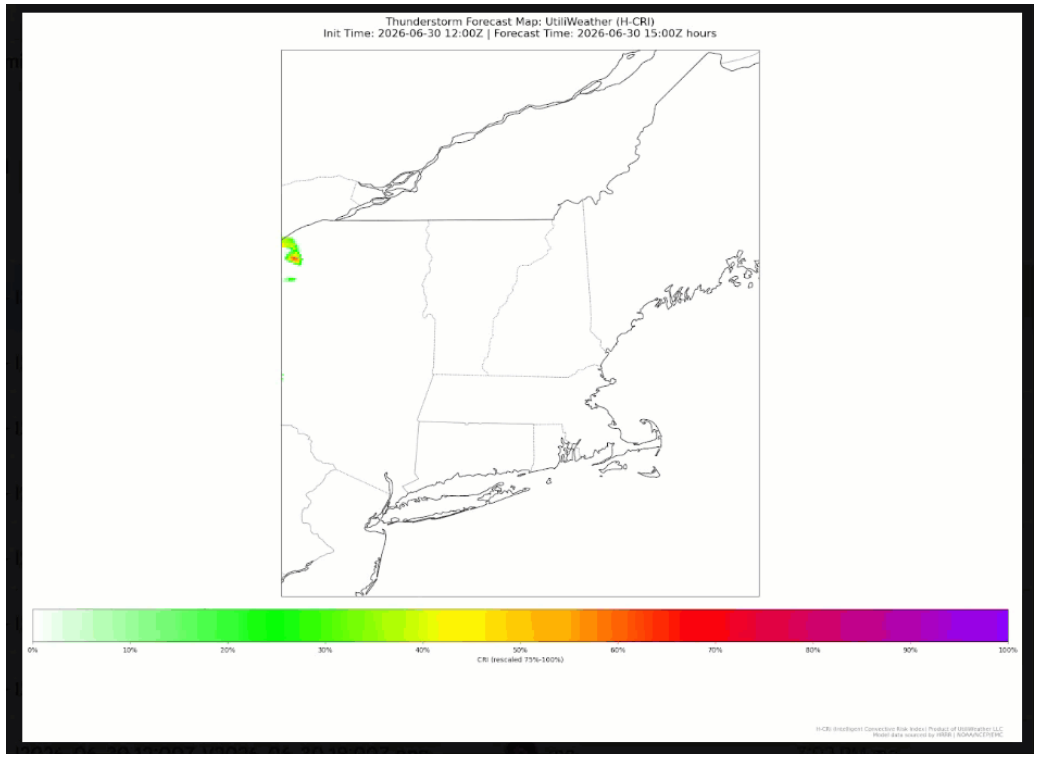
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

H-CRi June 30 2026



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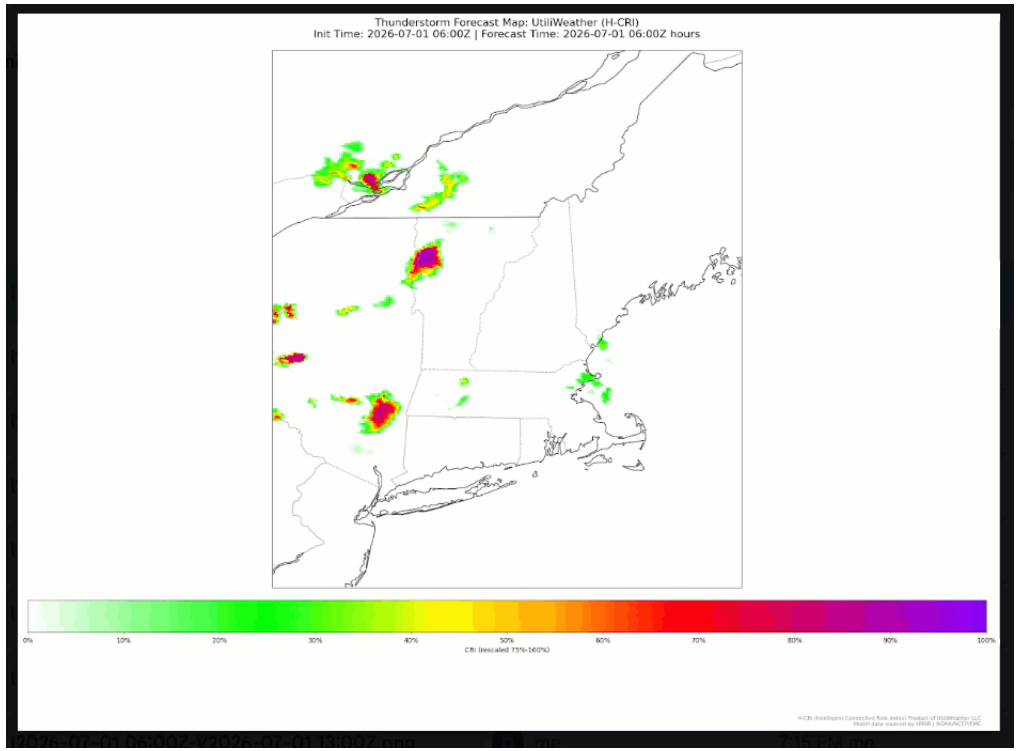
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

H-CRi July 1, 2026



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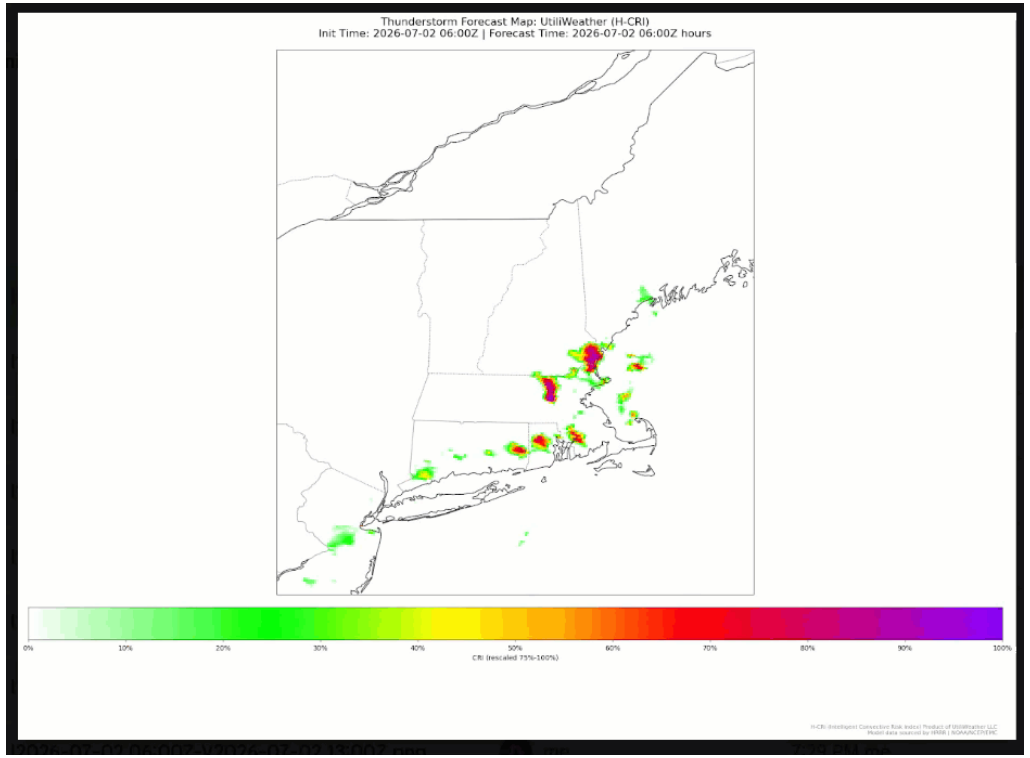
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

H-CRi July 2, 2026



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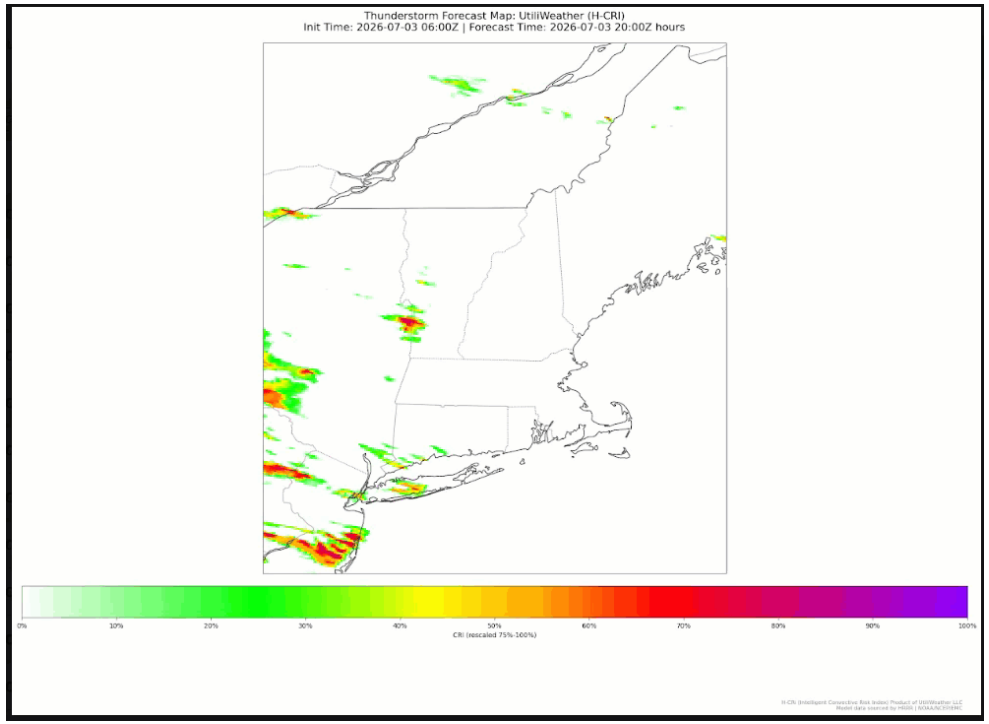
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

H-CRi July 3, 2026



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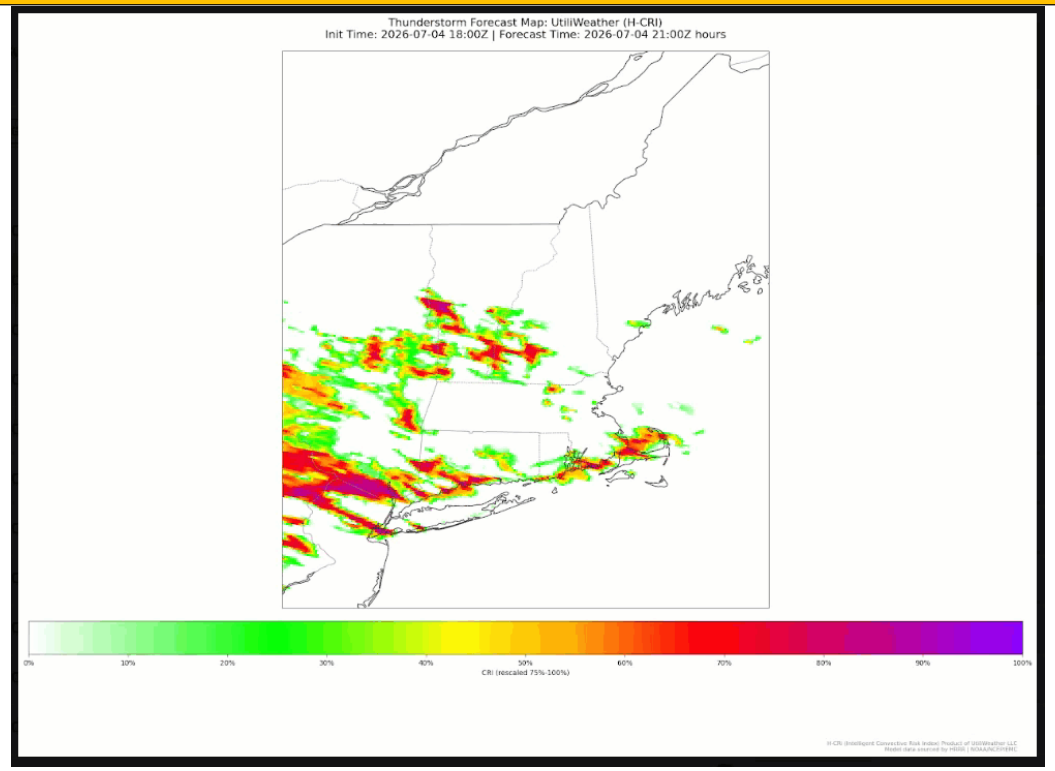
June 30 – July 4, 2026 Heat and Thunderstorm Events

H-CRi July 4, 2026



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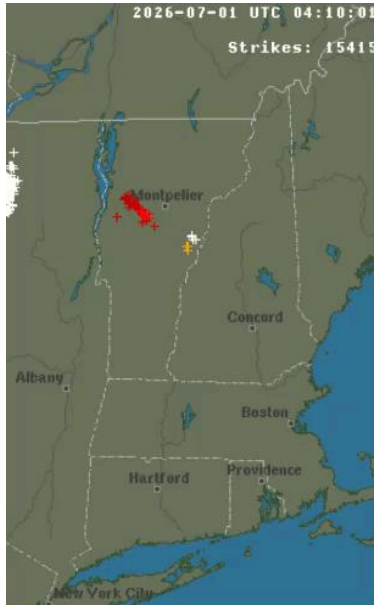
Lightning Strikes

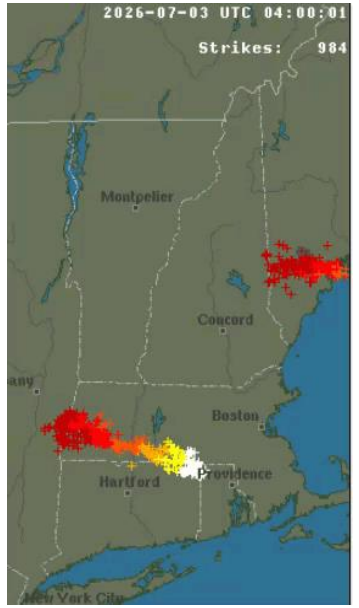
June 30



July 1



July 2



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Lightning Strikes

July 3



July 4



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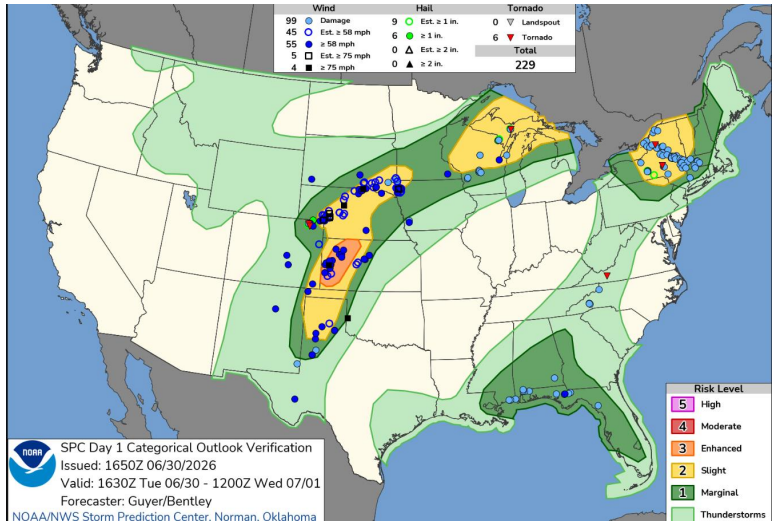
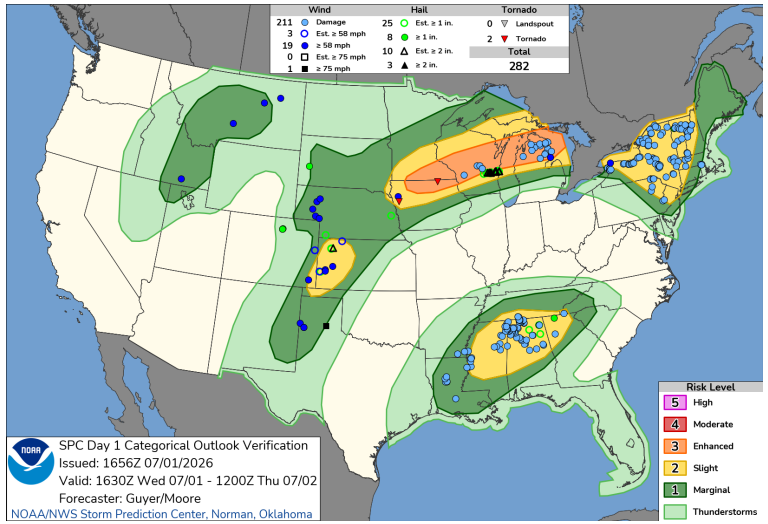
Lightning Strikes, SPC Categorical, SPC Storm reports

SPC Categorical and Verification





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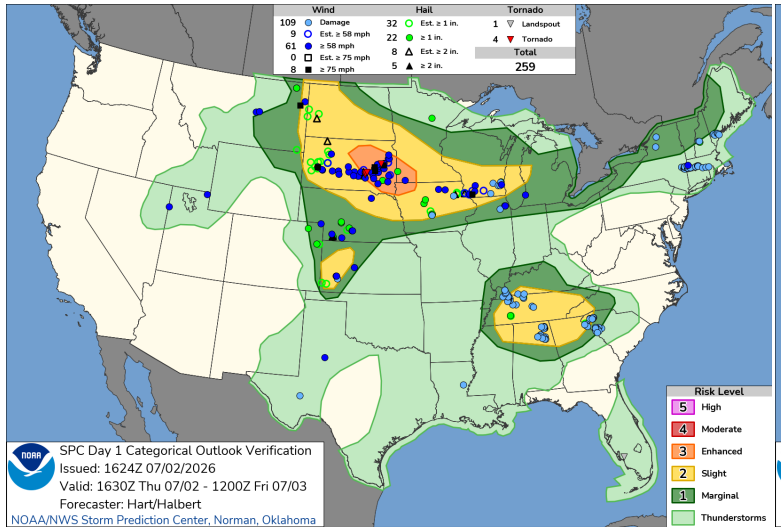
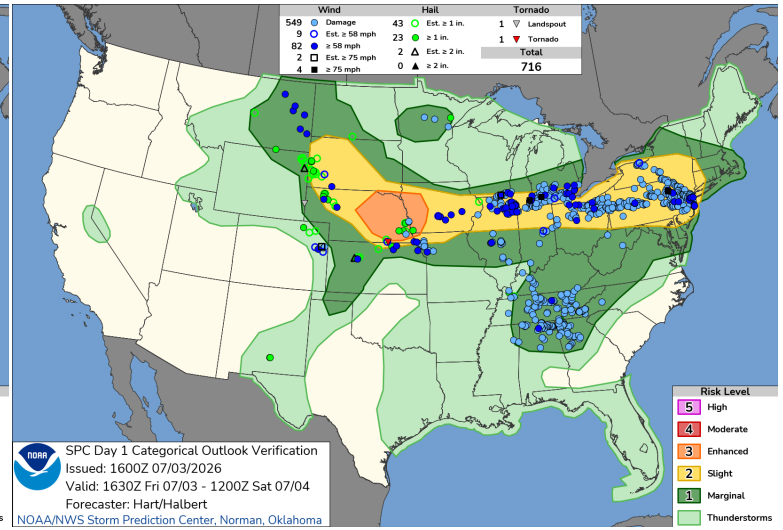
Lightning Strikes, SPC Categorical, SPC Storm reports

SPC Categorical and Verification





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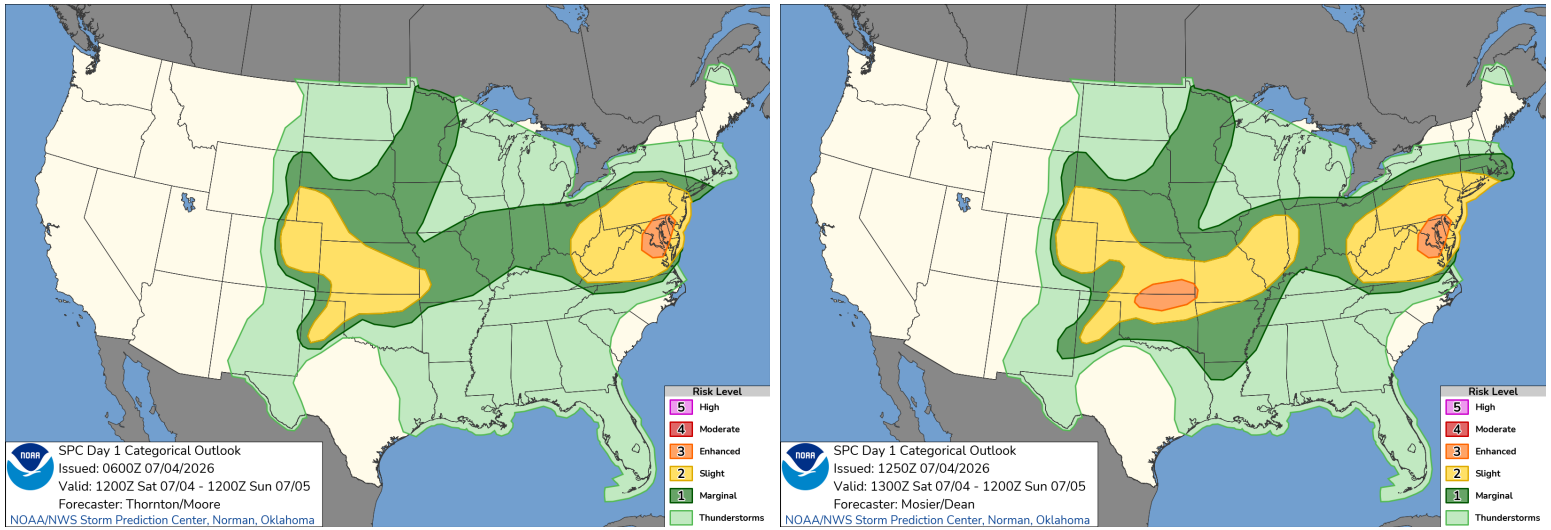
Lightning Strikes, SPC Categorical, SPC Storm reports

SPC Categorical July 4



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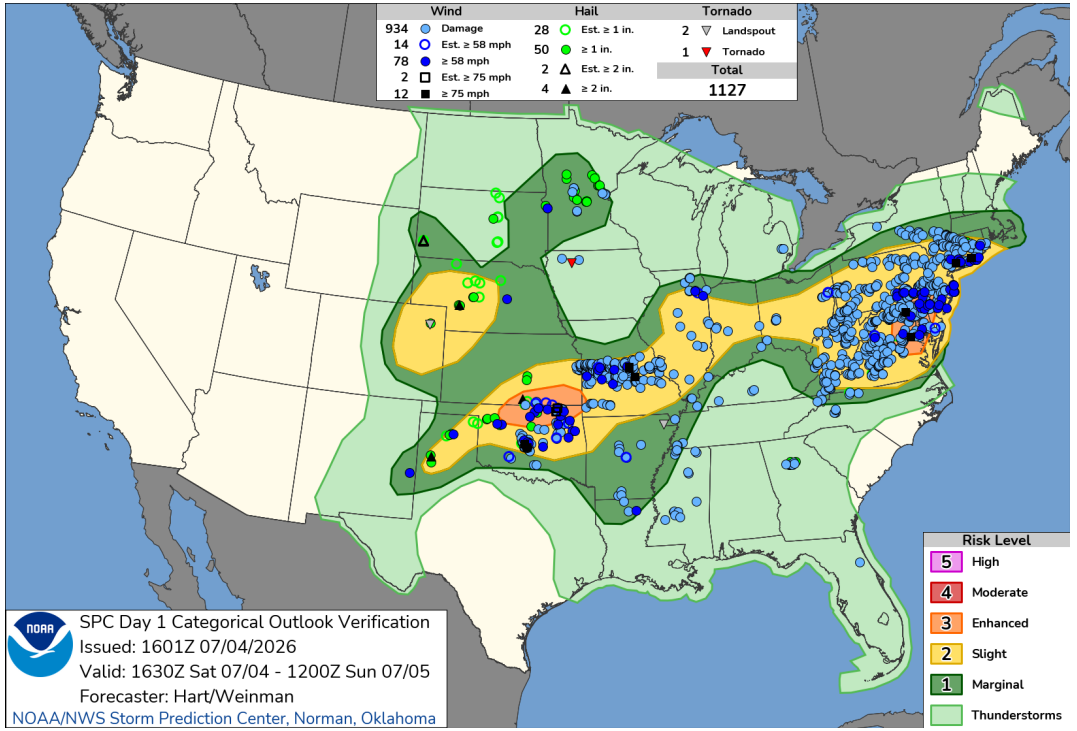
Lightning Strikes, SPC Categorical, SPC Storm reports

SPC Categorical and Verification July 4



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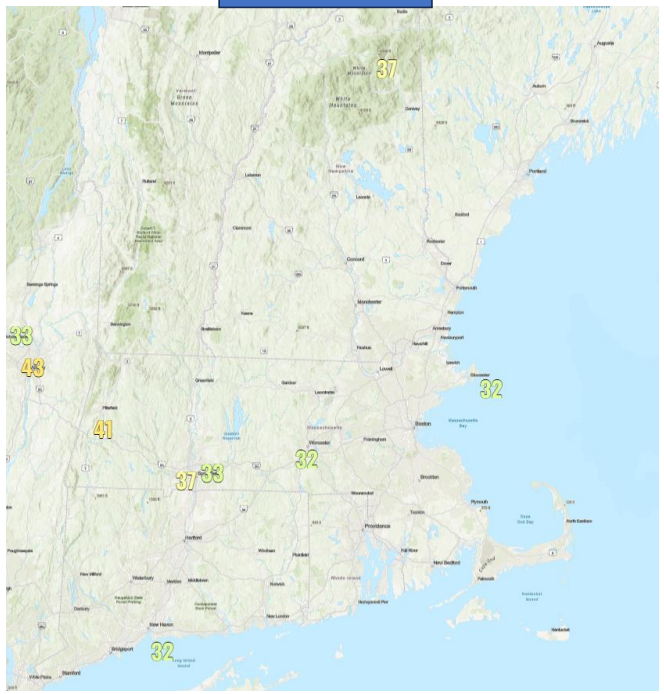
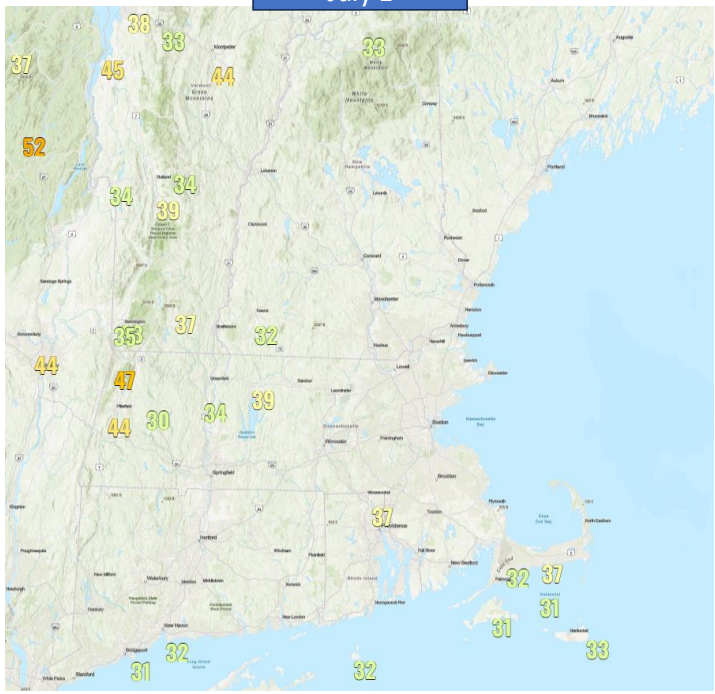
Observed Max Wind Gusts >30 mph

June 30



July 1



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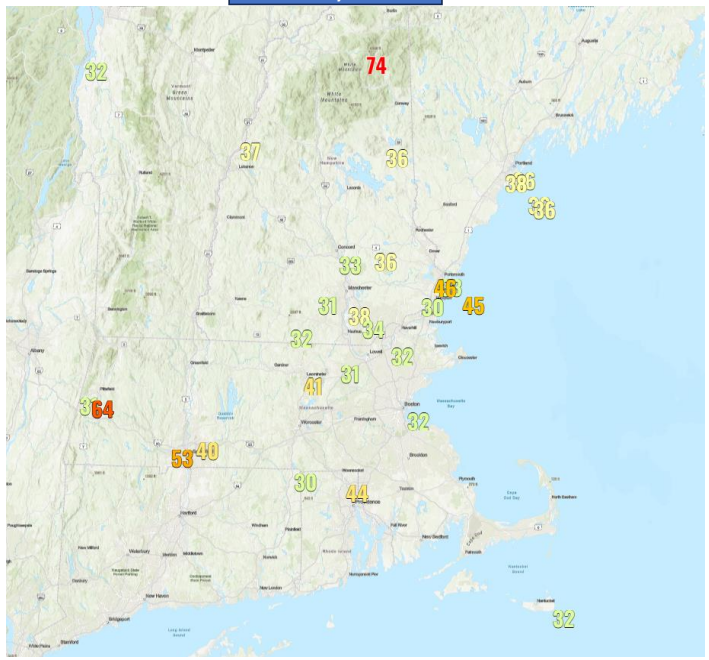
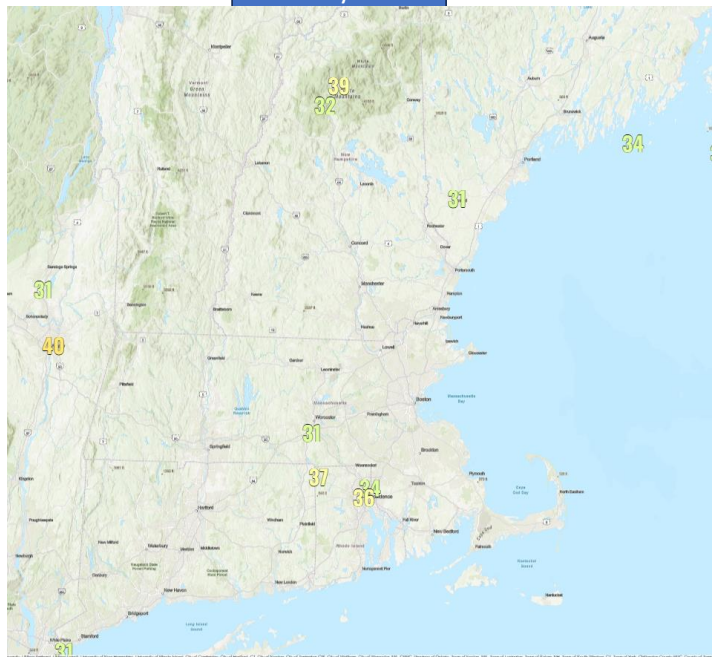
Observed Max Wind Gusts >30 mph

July 2



July 3



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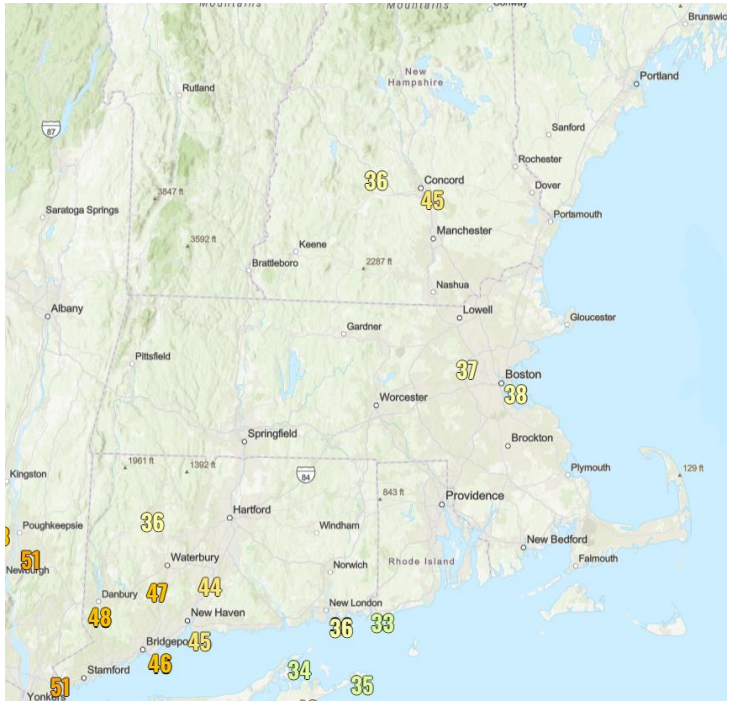
Observed Max Wind Gusts >30 mph

July 4



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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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NCEI > Storm Events Database (Select State) > (Select Date/County/Event)

Storm Events Database

- **Data Access**
  - Search
  - Bulk Data Download (CSV)
  - Storm Data Publication
- **Documentation**
  - Database Details
  - Version History
  - Storm Data FAQ
  - NOAA's NWS Documentation
  - Tornado EF Scale
- **External Resources**
  - NOAA's SPC Reports
  - NOAA's SPC WCM Page
  - NOAA's NWS Damage Assessment Toolkit
  - NOAA's Tsunami Database
  - ESRI/FEMA Civil Air Patrol Images
  - SHELDUS
  - USDA Cause of Loss Data

Data Export: (current results)

CSV Download / Documentation

Storm Events Database

Search Results for All Counties in Connecticut

All Available Event Types

Due to changes in the methods used by the NWS to spatially locate Waterspouts, please query by state (FL, TX, VA, etc) for Jan 1996 through Sep 2001. Beginning October 2001, please query by Marine Zone (N. Atlantic, S Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, S Pacific, N. Pacific, Alaskan Waters, Hawaiian Waters, Great Lakes, etc) using the drop-down box for "State/Area".

0 events were reported between 06/30/2026 and 07/04/2026 (5 days)

Summary Info:

Number of County/Zone areas affected:	0
Number of Days with Event:	0
Number of Days with Event and Death:	0
Number of Days with Event and Death or Injury:	0
Number of Days with Event and Property Damage:	0
Number of Days with Event and Crop Damage:	0
Number of Event Types reported:	0

Column Definitions:
'Mag': Magnitude, 'Dth': Deaths, 'Inj': Injuries, 'PrD': Property Damage, 'CrD': Crop Damage

*Click on **Location** below to display details.*
Available Event Types have changed over time. Please refer to the Database Details for more information.

Select: All Hail | All Tornadoes | All Wind Speeds Sort By: Date/Time (Oldest)

Location	County/Zone	St.	Date	Time	T.Z.	Type	Mag	Dth	Inj	PrD	CrD
Totals:								0	0	0.00K	0.00K

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Observed Max Wind Gusts >30 mph

The **highest wind gust officially recorded at a major NWS station** in Connecticut during the July 4th severe storms was **46 mph at the Bridgeport Airport station (BDR)**.

Because the localized supercells and bow-echo lines bypassed the state's few automated primary airport stations, the highest actual wind speeds (estimated via radar and regional mesonet equipment to have peaked between **65 and 80 mph**) did not directly hit the core automated NWS sensors.

Official reports and cooperative observer network availability for July 4th indicate the following maximum wind gusts:

Primary NWS ASOS / AWOS Airport Stations

- **Bridgeport Airport (BDR)**: 46 mph
- **Groton-New London Airport (GON)**: 34 mph
- **Waterbury-Oxford Airport (OXC)**: 29 mph
- **Bradley International Airport (BDL - Windsor Locks)**: 25 mph
- **Danbury Municipal Airport (DXR)**: 23 mph WFSB +1

Regional Mesonet & Cooperative Marine Stations

- **New Haven Mesonet (Near Tweed Airport)**: 53 mph
- **Stamford / Long Island Sound Marine Sensor**: 44 mph
- **New London Ledge Light**: 41 mph

Radar-Estimated and Spotter Confirmed Severe Pockets

Because cooperative stations are widely spaced, the NWS relies on field damage and Doppler radar to log peak severe gusts. The NWS local storm logs indicate that the most severe 60+ mph straight-line gusts struck areas lacking permanent automated weather stations:



Torrington
Locality
Litchfield, CT 06790

Estimated **70–80 mph** gusts based on extensive tree crowning, snapped utility poles, and widespread power blackouts.



Montville
Locality
Waterford, CT

Estimated **60 mph** gusts accompanying ping-pong ball-sized hail.



Stafford
Locality
Connecticut

Estimated **60 mph** gusts associated with a bow-echo signature crossing from Massachusetts. Facebook · Wx1box - National Weather ... +4

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