

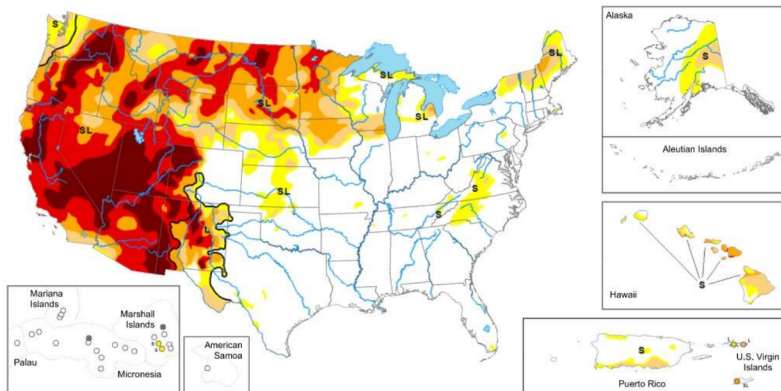
Drought and Heat Wave

When considering all of the natural hazards that a community faces, it is often easy to overlook drought. According to the University of Nebraska's National Drought Mitigation Center, drought is defined a "deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time(usually a season or more), resulting in a water shortage." NDMC indicates that part of drought's reputation is due to the fact that it affects regions differently. In determining a drought, it is often subjectively compared to the region's normal rainfall conditions.

A similar hazard to drought is a heatwave. The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration identifies a heatwave as "a period of unusually hot weather that typically lasts two or more days.". NOAA goes on to say that, to be considered a heat wave, "the temperatures have to be outside the historical averages for a given area."

While functionally different, drought and heat wave have the ability to function together or independently. These hazards can also give rise to the potential for additional hazards, such as wildfire or dust storms.

Measuring Drought & Heath Wave



The US Drought Monitor, maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center, identifies general areas of drought and labels them by intensity.

Source:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>