AGUACEROWX IN-DEPTH GUIDE

Watches, warnings and alert settings

The Alerts layer draws live NWS watches, warnings, advisories and discussions, plus Canadian and European warnings, on the map. You choose which of more than 130 alert types show, how each one looks, and whether a new one pops up a notification, plays a sound or flashes on the map. Save the whole setup as an alert bundle and switch between looks in one click.

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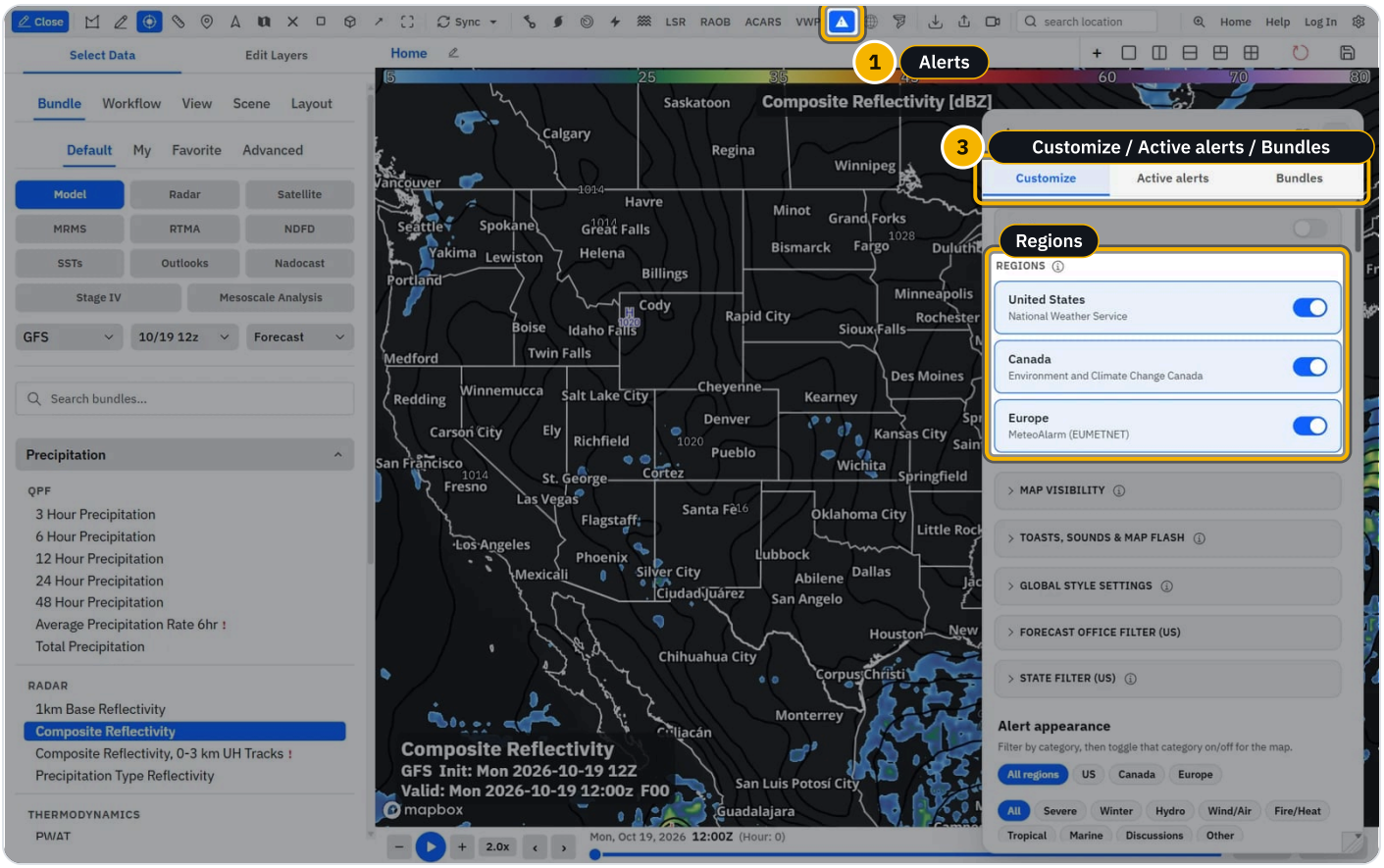
BEFORE YOU START

- The **Alerts** button (the warning triangle) is on the toolbar. Double-click it to turn alerts on or off. Single-click it to open the Alerts menu. The same controls are in **Settings**, on the **Alerts** tab.
- Alerts, colors, outlines, filters, notifications, built-in sounds and map flash work on every plan. Uploading your own MP3 sounds needs Creator. Broadcast popups, alert headers and the alerts ticker are Creator tools covered in the on-air alerts guide.
- Sign in to keep your setup. Alert settings and alert bundles save to your account a moment after each change and load on any device you sign in on. Signed out, they reset when you reload.
- Notifications, sounds and map flash are off for every alert type until you turn them on.

01 Turn alerts on and open the menu

One toolbar button turns the Alerts layer on and opens every alert setting.

1. Double-click **Alerts** (the warning triangle) on the toolbar. Alerts draw on the active panel, or on every panel of the board when **Sync Alerts** is on.
2. Single-click **Alerts** to open the Alerts menu. It opens on the **Customize** tab.
3. Pick a tab: **Customize** for alert types, styles, filters and notifications, **Active alerts** for a list of what is in effect, or **Bundles** for saved presets.
4. Click an alert on the map to open its popup.



The Alerts button, the three tabs of the Alerts menu and the region switches.

MENU CONTROLS	
Alerts	The switch at the top of **Customize**. Turns the Alerts layer on or off, the same as double-clicking the toolbar button.
Customize	Regions, map visibility, notifications, global style, office and state filters, and the list of alert types.
Active alerts	Every alert in effect, grouped by category, with counts of high-impact warnings.
Bundles	Save, apply, update, rename and delete alert bundles.
Mount in map UI	The two-panel button in the menu header. Docks the menu into a panel beside the map. Desktop only.
Close alerts menu	The close button in the menu header.

Drag to resize (saved)	The handle in the lower-right corner. The menu is 400 × 780 px at first and can’t go below 320 × 440 px. Drag the header to move it. Size and position are remembered.

TIPS

- **Sync** on the toolbar has **Sync Alerts**, which is on by default. While it is on, turning alerts on or off applies to every panel on the board. Turn it off to show alerts on one panel only.
- In **Edit Layers**, the layer is listed as **Alerts**. Its edit button opens the Alerts menu.
- To have alerts turn on whenever you load a built-in bundle, check **Alerts** under **Default bundle overlays** in **Settings**, **Data**. This needs an account.
- If the time bar is following a model forecast and the board has no radar, satellite or other observations, turning alerts on switches the time bar to **Warnings**.
- On a phone, tap **Alerts** in the menu. It opens the settings as a sheet and turns alerts on if they are off. Use **Expand modal** to make the sheet taller.

SHORTCUTS

`Enter` / `Space`	Opens the settings of the alert type row that has focus.
`Enter`	In **Add code (e.g. MKX)**, adds the office. In **Name this preset…**, saves the alert bundle.
`Esc`	Cancels renaming an alert bundle.

Settings, **Keyboard shortcuts** lists **Toggle alerts** and **Alerts settings**. Neither has a key by default; assign your own to turn alerts on or off or open this menu from the keyboard.

02 Choose which alert types show

Each alert type has its own switch. Filter the list by region and category, then turn single types or whole categories on and off.

1. On **Customize**, scroll to **Alert appearance**.
2. Pick a region chip: **All regions**, **US**, **Canada** or **Europe**. The chip only filters the list. It doesn’t hide anything on the map.

3. Pick a category chip, such as **Severe** or **Winter**, or **All**.
4. With a category picked, use the switch named for it, such as **Show Severe on map**, to show or hide every type in that category. The note beside it says whether every type is visible or some are hidden. With a region chip picked, the switch only acts on that region's types.
5. To find one type, type in **Search alerts…** and flip the switch on its row.
6. Click a row (not its switch) to open that type's fill, outline, sound and flash settings. Click **Back to alerts** to return to the list.

CATEGORIES	
All	Every alert type for the region chip you picked.
Severe	Tornado and severe thunderstorm watches and warnings with their tagged versions, Severe Weather Statement, convective Special Weather Statements, Marine Weather Statements and Special Marine Warnings, and MeteoAlarm thunderstorm warnings.
Winter	Blizzard, winter storm, ice storm, snow squall, lake effect snow, winter weather, freeze, frost, freezing rain and fog, wind chill, cold weather and extreme cold products, plus Canadian snowfall, blowing snow and flash freeze warnings.
Hydro	Flash flood, flood and areal flood products, coastal and lakeshore flood products, Hydrologic Outlook, and Canadian and European rain and flood warnings.
Wind/Air	High wind, extreme wind, wind and lake wind advisories, dust, ashfall, dense fog, dense smoke, air quality and air stagnation products.
Fire/Heat	Red Flag Warning, Fire Weather Watch, Fire Warning, Extreme Fire Danger, Heat Advisory and extreme heat products.
Tropical	Hurricane, typhoon, tropical storm and storm surge watches and warnings, and Tropical Cyclone Local Statement.

Marine	Gale, storm, hurricane force wind, hazardous seas and freezing spray products, Small Craft Advisory, Special Marine Warning, surf, rip current, beach hazards, tsunami and low water products.
Discussions	SPC Mesoscale Discussion, Winter Mesoscale Discussion, WPC Mesoscale Precipitation Discussion and Flash Flood Guidance.
Other	Civil and emergency messages, non-convective Special Weather Statement, Hazardous Weather Outlook, Short Term Forecast, avalanche, earthquake and volcano products, Child Abduction Emergency, Blue Alert, Administrative Message and Test.

TIPS

- Tagged versions are their own rows: **Tornado Warning (Observed)**, **Tornado Warning (PDS)** and **Tornado Warning (Emergency)**; **Severe Thunderstorm Warning (Considerable)** and **(Destructive)**; **Flash Flood Warning (Considerable)** and **(Emergency)**; PDS tornado and severe thunderstorm watches; and the **(Convective)** versions of Special Weather Statement, Marine Weather Statement and Special Marine Warning. Each has its own map switch.
- Until a tagged version gets its own setting, from its row or from a button that sets every visible type, it uses its parent's fill color, fill opacity, fill and outline switches, sound, notification and map flash. Outline colors and widths are set per type.
- The swatch on each row previews the map look: a fill with an outline ring, an outline cross-section when fill is off, a solid fill when the outline is off, or a thin line when both are off.

A hidden type also disappears from **Active alerts** and from the ticker while it follows the map, and it stops making notifications, sounds and map flashes.

03 Hide or show whole families at once

Buttons that turn every watch, every warning, everything else, or everything except severe threats on or off without turning alerts off.

1. On **Customize**, click **Map visibility** to expand it.
2. Click a button. The switches in the alert type list update to match.

MAP VISIBILITY	
Turn off watches	Hides every type with “Watch” in its name. **Turn on watches** shows them again.
Turn off other non-warnings	Hides everything that is neither a watch nor a warning: advisories, statements, outlooks, discussions and messages. **Turn on other non-warnings** shows them again.
Turn off warnings	Hides every type with “Warning” in its name, including tagged versions. **Turn on warnings** shows them again.
Only severe threats on map	Shows tornado, severe thunderstorm and flash flood watches and warnings with their tagged versions, Flash Flood Statement, convective Special Weather Statements, Marine Weather Statements and Special Marine Warnings, and MeteoAlarm thunderstorm warnings. Hides every other type.
All alert types on map	Turns every alert type back on.

TIPS

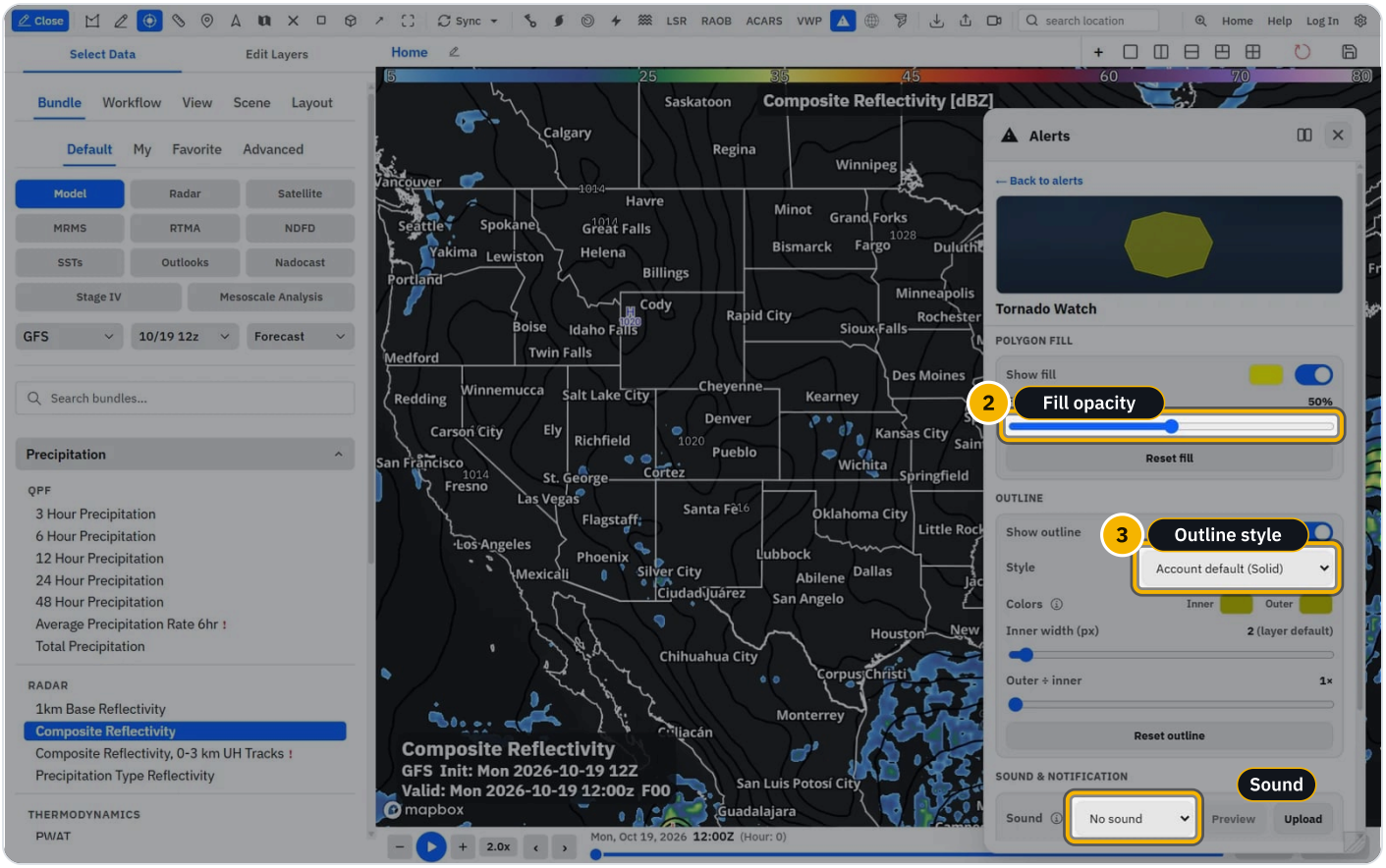
- These buttons set the same per-type switches as the list, so you can fine-tune afterward. Use three of them in a row (**Turn off watches**, **Turn off other non-warnings**, **Turn off warnings**) to start from an empty map and then turn on only the types you want.

04 Style one alert type: fill and outline

Give any alert type its own fill color and opacity, and a two-layer outline with an inner line and a wider casing behind it.

1. Under **Alert appearance**, click the row of an alert type (not its switch).
2. Under **Polygon fill**, turn **Show fill** on or off. While fill is on, click the color swatch beside the switch to pick a color, and drag **Fill opacity**.
3. Under **Outline**, turn **Show outline** on or off, pick a **Style**, and set the **Inner** and **Outer** colors.
4. Drag **Inner width (px)** and **Outer ÷ inner**. The sample at the top of the panel previews the result while you drag.

5 Click **Back to alerts** when you are done. Changes apply to the map right away.



The settings of one alert type: fill, outline style and sound.

POLYGON FILL	
Show fill	Turns the polygon fill on or off. On by default, except tornado, severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings (with their tagged versions) and Flash Flood Statement, which are outline only. While fill is on, the swatch beside the switch opens the color picker. Default colors follow the NWS hazard colors, for example red for **Tornado Warning**, orange for **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**, dark red for **Flash Flood Warning** and yellow for **Tornado Watch**.
Fill opacity	0–100%, default 50%. Shown while fill is on.
Reset fill	Restores the default color and clears this type's opacity, so it falls back to the global fill opacity or 50%. It shows even with fill off, since the color also sets the outline and accent.

OUTLINE	
Show outline	Turns the outline on or off. On by default.
Style	**Account default (Solid)**, **Solid**, **Dashed** or **Dotted**. The account default follows **Outline style** in **Global style settings** and names the current style in brackets.
Inner	Color of the thin core line along the polygon. The default is a darker shade of the fill color (75% brightness).
Outer	Color of the casing behind the core, which keeps the outline readable over radar or satellite. It shows only when **Outer ÷ inner** is above 1×. The default matches the inner color.
Inner width (px)	1–32 px in 0.5 px steps. The default is the layer's line width, 2 px, and the readout says "(layer default)" until you change it.
Outer ÷ inner	Casing width as a multiple of the inner width, 1–4× in 0.05 steps. 1× means no casing.
Reset outline	Clears this type's outline colors, widths and style, back to the defaults below.

Built-in outlines: tornado, severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings and Flash Flood Statement draw a hazard-colored core with a black casing (inner 3 px, 1.4×). **Tornado Warning (PDS)**, PDS watches and the **(Considerable)** severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings use a black casing at 1.5×. **Tornado Warning (Emergency)**, **Severe Thunderstorm Warning (Destructive)** and **Flash Flood Warning (Emergency)** use a white core inside a hazard-colored casing at 1.6×. Anything you set yourself overrides these.

TIPS

- The fill color also sets the default inner outline color and the accent color of the alert's notifications and **Active alerts** cards. To change it on an outline-only type, turn **Show fill** on, pick the color, then turn fill off again.
- If you turn off both the fill and the outline, the type is invisible and makes no notifications, sounds or map flash. Turn off its map switch instead if that is what you mean.

05 Restyle every alert type at once

Set fill, opacity, outline width, casing and dash style for every alert type in one place, then make single-type exceptions.

1. On **Customize**, click **Global style settings** to expand it.
2. Click **Hide fill** or **Show fill**, and **Hide outline** or **Show outline**.
3. Drag the sliders and pick an **Outline style**.
4. Open a single alert type in the list below if you want an exception.

GLOBAL STYLE SETTINGS	
Hide fill	Turns the fill off for every alert type. **Show fill** turns it on for every type, including the warnings that are outline only by default.
Fill opacity	0–100% for every type, default 50%. Shown while any type has its fill on.
Hide outline	Turns the outline off for every type. **Show outline** turns it back on.
Inner width (px)	1–32 px in 0.5 px steps for every type. Defaults to the layer's line width, 2 px. Shown while any type has its outline on.
Outer ÷ inner thickness	1–4× in 0.05 steps for every type, default 1×.
Outline style	**Solid** (default), **Dashed** or **Dotted** for every type. This is also the account default that single types can follow.

Each global setting overwrites that setting on every type, including the built-in widths and casing of the default warning outlines. Outline colors aren't changed. A setting you change afterward on a single type wins over the global one.

06 Filter by forecast office or state

Show only the US alerts issued by the forecast offices you pick, or that touch the states you pick.

1. On **Customize**, click **Forecast office filter (US)** to expand it.
2. Type a three-letter office code in **Add code (e.g. MKX)** and press `Enter` or click **Add**. Or search with **Search WFO codes...** and click codes in the grid.
3. To filter by state, expand **State filter (US)** and click states in the grid, or search with **Search states...**.
4. Click a selected code's × chip to remove it, or **Clear offices** or **Clear states** to remove them all.

FILTERS	
Forecast office filter (US)	Shows only alerts issued by the selected offices. Selected codes appear as chips; with none selected it reads **All offices**.
Add code (e.g. MKX)	Adds any three-letter office code. Anything else is ignored.
Search WFO codes...	Narrows the grid of office codes, which shows up to 96 codes at a time. The grid also has **WNS** (Storm Prediction Center), **WPC** and **NHC**.
State filter (US)	Shows alerts that include a selected state, from any office. A warning that crosses a state line still shows when any of its zones are in a selected state. With none selected it reads **All states**.
Search states...	Matches state abbreviations and names. The grid shows abbreviations; hover one for the full name.
Hide coastal forecast zones	Hides alerts drawn on coastal marine zones (AMZ, PZZ, GMZ, PHZ and similar), such as tropical watches and warnings issued for coastal waters, and keeps land zones. Off by default. Shown while alerts are on.

When both filters are set, an alert has to pass both. Either filter hides every Canadian and European alert. Products from the Storm Prediction Center (**WNS**), such as watches and mesoscale discussions, always pass the office filter; add a state filter or hide those types if you want fewer of them.

TIPS

- Filters apply everywhere alerts appear: the map, **Active alerts**, the ticker while it follows the map, and notifications, sounds and map flash.

07 Canadian and European alerts

Environment and Climate Change Canada and MeteoAlarm warnings share the Alerts layer with NWS alerts, with the same styling, popups, notifications and time slider.

1. On **Customize**, find **Regions**.
2. Turn **United States**, **Canada** or **Europe** on or off. All three are on by default.
3. Under **Alert appearance**, click the **Canada** or **Europe** chip to list that region's alert types, then style them like any other type.

REGIONS	
United States	National Weather Service alerts, received live over NWWS.
Canada	Environment and Climate Change Canada alerts, checked about every 90 seconds.
Europe	MeteoAlarm (EUMETNET) warnings from European national weather services, checked about every 2 minutes.

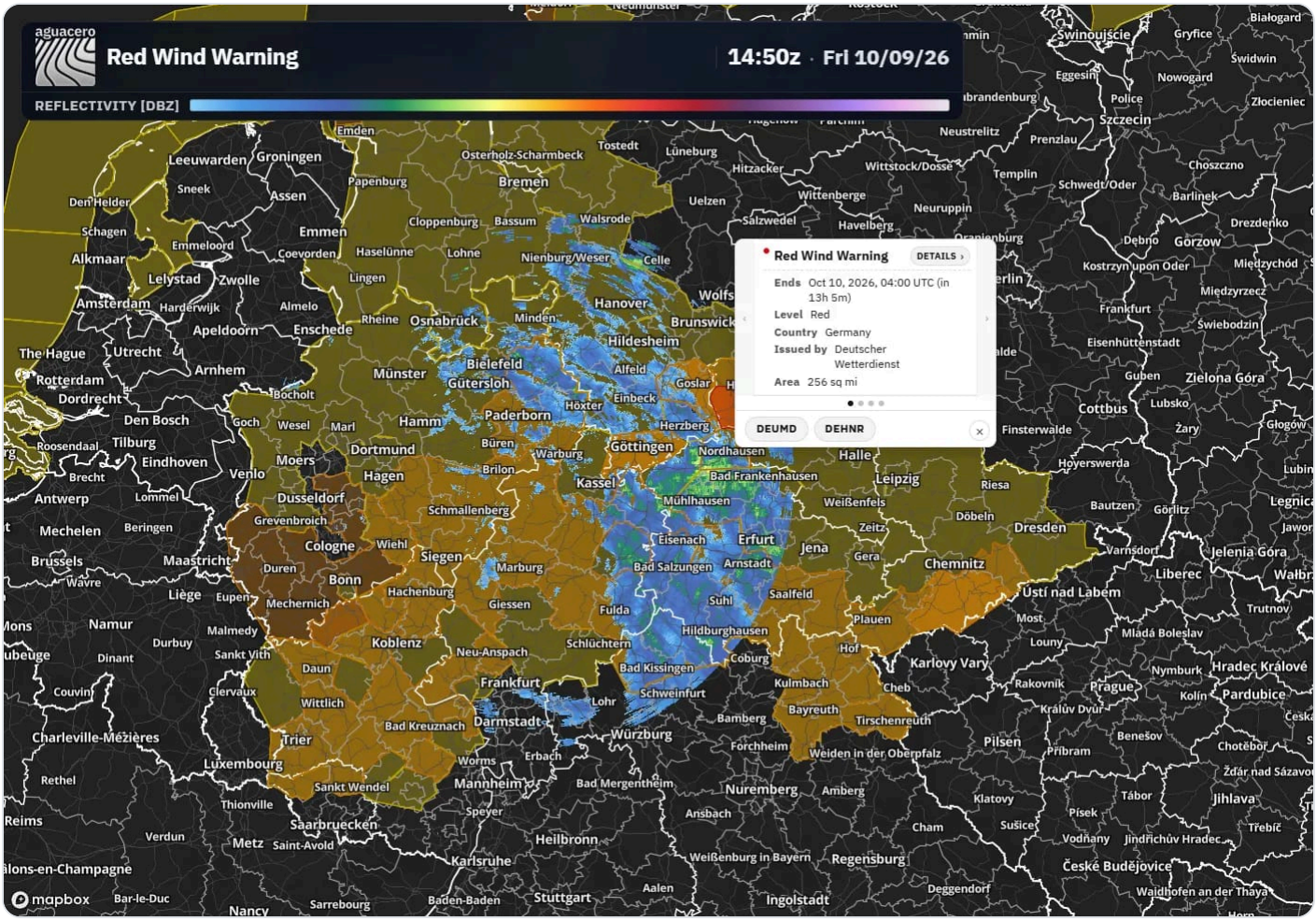
Canadian alerts that share a name with an NWS product, such as **Tornado Warning**, **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**, **Special Weather Statement**, **Snow Squall Warning** or **Winter Storm Warning**, share that product's settings, so a storm crossing the border looks the same on both sides. Canada-only types include **Rainfall Warning**, **Snowfall Warning**, **Wind Warning**, **Freezing Rain Warning**, **Heat Warning**, **Arctic Outflow Warning**, **Air Quality Warning** and **Special Air Quality Statement**.

European warnings are named by level and hazard, such as **Orange Wind Warning** or **Red Thunderstorm Warning**. There are 14 hazards (wind, snow/ice, thunderstorm, fog, high and low temperature, coastal event, forest fire, avalanche, rain, flood, rain-flood, marine hazard and drought) at three levels, drawn yellow, orange and red by default.

TIPS

- Popups for these alerts show **Level**, **Province** or **Country**, and **Issued by** instead of an NWS office.
- MeteoAlarm issues each day's warnings ahead of time. A European warning draws on the map once its start time arrives on the time slider.
- Clicking a Canadian or European card in **Active alerts** only turns on a radar whose coverage includes the alert.
- Region checks slow to about every 5 minutes while the browser tab is hidden.

Turning a region off hides it on the map, in **Active alerts** and in the ticker, and stops its notifications and sounds. An office or state filter also hides both Canada and Europe. European warnings: EUMETNET-MeteoAlarm (CC BY 4.0). Canadian alerts: Environment and Climate Change Canada, under the Open Government Licence – Canada.



A red wind warning over Germany on top of European radar.

08 Click an alert: popups and full text

A popup shows when an alert starts and ends, its threats, area and the population covered. **Details** opens the full bulletin.

1. Click an alert on the map.
2. Where alerts overlap, use the ‹ and › arrows on the sides of the popup, or swipe on a touch screen, to step through each one.
3. Click **Details** for the full bulletin text and a row of facts about the alert.
4. In the full text, click **Copy** to copy the bulletin.

POPUP ROWS	
Starts	Shown only before the alert starts, with the start time and how long until then.
Ends	End time with the time left, or “(expired)”.
Level	Canadian and European alerts: the alert level. **Province** or **Country** and **Issued by** follow.
Area	Area inside the alert, in sq mi or km² depending on your units.
Population	Estimated number of people inside the alert. It appears a moment after the popup opens and is left out when there is no estimate.
Details	Opens the full text. Shown when the bulletin text is available.

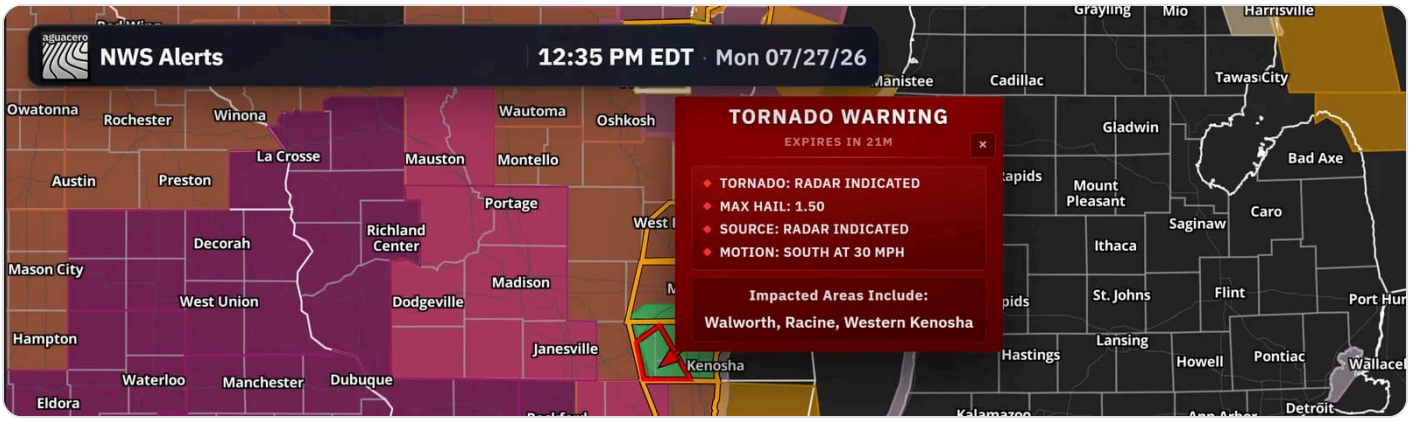
Between **Ends** and **Area**, the popup lists threat details taken from the bulletin, such as maximum hail size, maximum wind gust, how a tornado was detected and the damage threat.

TIPS

- In **Settings**, **Appearance**, **Feature popups**, turn on **Only show popup when clicking outline** to open popups only from the border of an alert, and **Allow multiple popups** to keep earlier popups open.
- The **Broadcast** and **Broadcast (Simple)** popup styles, with their own fields and colors, need Creator.

SHORTCUTS

`Backspace`	Closes the latest popup on the active panel.
`Shift` + `Backspace`	Closes every popup and pinned readout on the active panel.
`PageUp` / `PageDown`	Steps through overlapping alerts in broadcast popup styles.

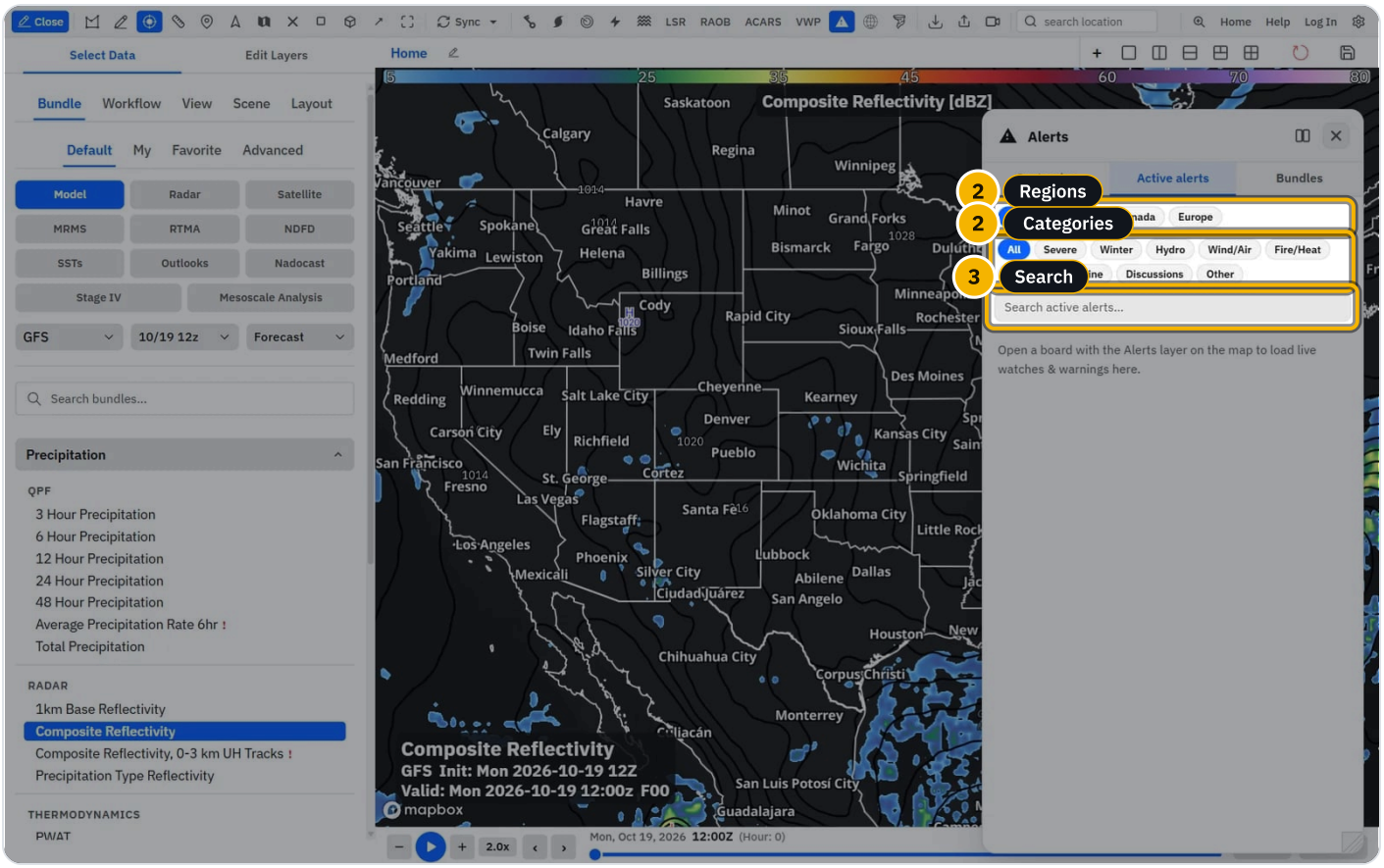


A tornado warning popup with the area and impacts.

09 See every alert in effect

The Active alerts tab lists what is in effect, counts the high-impact warnings and takes you to any alert with radar on.

1. Turn alerts on, open the Alerts menu and click **Active alerts**.
2. Pick a region chip and a category chip to narrow the list.
3. Type in **Search active alerts…** to find an alert by type, office, state or tag.
4. Click a card. The map flies to the alert and turns on the nearest working NEXRAD site.



The Active alerts tab with its region and category chips and search box.

ACTIVE ALERTS	
All regions	Region chips: **All regions**, **US**, **Canada** and **Europe**.
All	Category chips, the same categories as on **Customize**.
Search active alerts...	Matches the title, alert type, office, states, region, category and tags.
Severe convective	High-impact counts. Chips for **TOR E**, **PDS TOR**, **TOR Observed**, **TOR**, **SVR Dest**, **SVR Cons** and **SVR**, with totals for **Flash flood** (**FFW E**, **FFW Cons**, **FFW**) and **Polygons** (**SPS Conv**, **SMW**, **SQW**). Hover a chip for its full name. Shown when at least one of these is in effect.

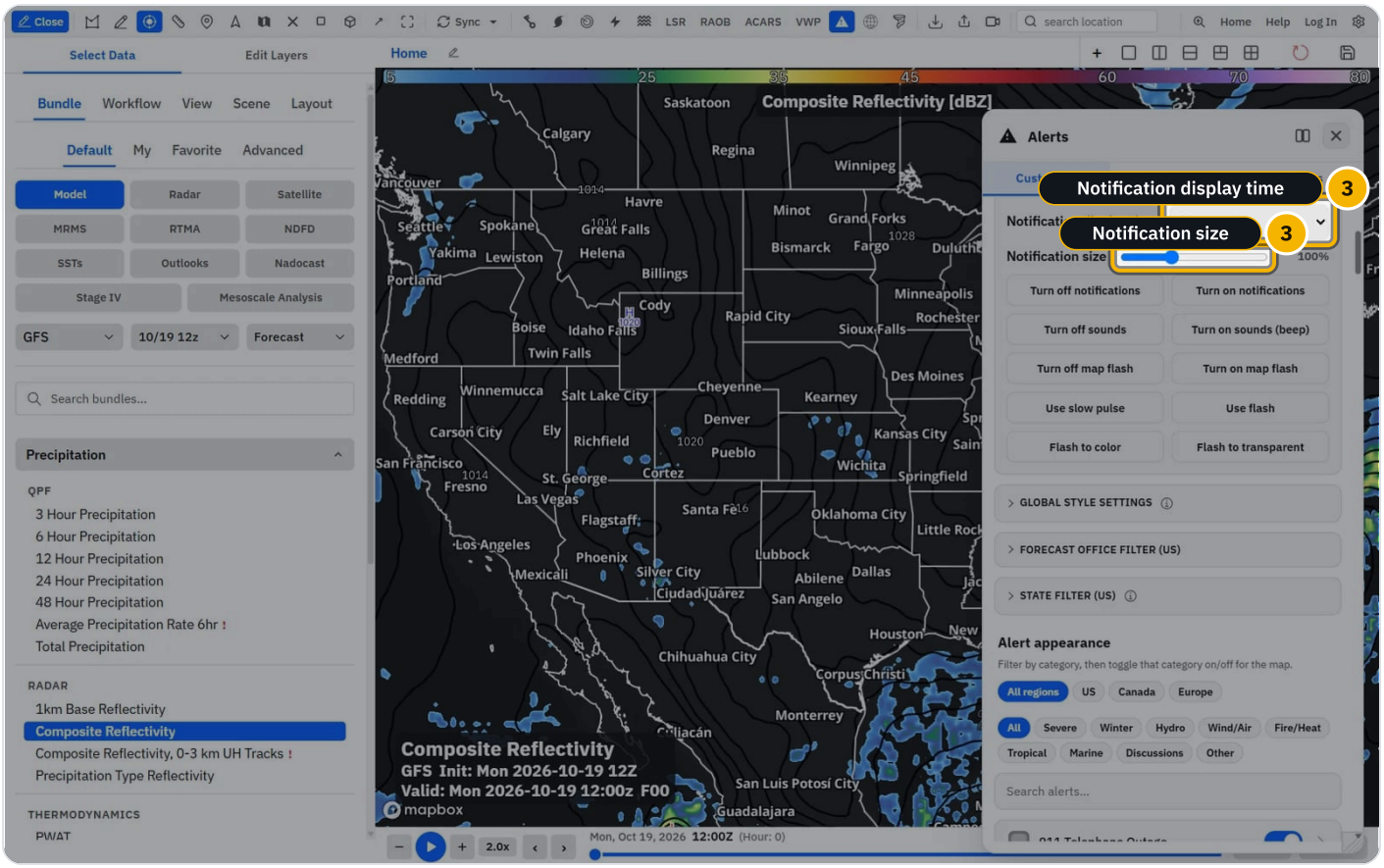
Map & radar	On each card. Click the card to fly to the alert and turn on radar. Cards also show the office, the affected states, tags such as issued, updated, extended, upgraded, maximum hail, maximum wind and damage threat, and **Expires** with the end time, refreshed every minute.

The list follows the time slider, your hidden alert types, region switches, office and state filters and the coastal zone setting. It needs the Alerts layer on a board; otherwise it reads “Open a board with the Alerts layer on the map to load live watches & warnings here.” In archive mode, clicking a card only pans the map and keeps your archived radar.

10 Get a notification when a new alert arrives

A card appears in the top-right corner of the board when a new alert of a type you chose is issued, upgraded, extended or updated. Notifications are off until you turn them on.

1. For one type: click its row, then under **Sound & notification** turn on **Notification**.
2. For every type at once: on **Customize**, expand **Toasts, sounds & map flash** and click **Turn on notifications**. It applies to every type that is visible on the map.
3. Set **Notification display time** and **Notification size**.
4. When a notification appears, click it to fly to the alert with radar on, or click its × to dismiss it.



Notification time and size, and the buttons that set notifications, sounds and flash for every visible type.

TOASTS, SOUNDS & MAP FLASH	
Notification display time	**10 seconds**, **30 seconds** (default), **1 minute**, **2 minutes** or **Until dismissed**.
Notification size	70–160%, default 100%. The app also scales notifications to the screen size.
Turn on notifications	Turns notifications on for every type visible on the map. **Turn off notifications** turns them off.
Turn on sounds (beep)	Sets **Beep** as the sound of every visible type. **Turn off sounds** sets **No sound**.
Turn on map flash	Turns map flash on for every visible type. **Turn off map flash** turns it off.

Use slow pulse	Turns flash on with the **Pulse** animation for every visible type, with a 2 s period where it was faster than 1 s. **Use flash** switches back to **Flash**.
Flash to color	Turns flash on and blends toward the flash color for every visible type. **Flash to transparent** fades the polygons out instead.

A notification shows the alert title, how a tornado was detected (such as observed or radar indicated) under the title, the office, the affected states, tags such as issued, upgraded or extended, and the end time. Up to three stack on the board; a fourth replaces the oldest.

Notifications, sounds and map flash happen when an alert is issued, upgraded, extended or updated while the app is open. Continuations, cancellations and expirations are silent, and alerts already in effect when you open the app don’t notify. The type has to be visible on the map and pass your region, office, state and coastal zone settings. Notifications are cards inside the app, not system notifications. On a phone, alerts don’t show notifications, play sounds or flash.

TIPS

- The bulk buttons change only the types that are visible on the map. Hidden types keep their own settings.

11 Flash new alerts on the map

Make a newly issued alert flash or pulse on the map so it catches your eye.

1. Click an alert type’s row, then under **Map flash** turn on **Flash**.
2. Pick an **Animation** and what to **Flash to**.
3. Set the duration and timing.

MAP FLASH

Flash	Highlights the alert polygon when a new product of this type arrives. Off by default.

Animation	**Flash** snaps between colors. **Pulse** fades slowly, which is easier on the eyes. Switching to **Pulse** with timing under 1 s sets it to 2 s.
Flash to	**Color** (default) blends the fill and outline toward the flash color. **Transparent** fades the polygon out instead.
Flash color	Default white. Hidden when **Flash to** is **Transparent**.
Flash indefinitely	Keeps the alert flashing until it is replaced or the map reloads. Off by default; turning it off sets the duration back to 10 seconds.
Duration (seconds)	How long the highlight runs: 1–120 seconds, default 10. Hidden while **Flash indefinitely** is on.
Flash every	Time between color changes: 200 ms, 300 ms (default), 400 ms, 500 ms, 750 ms, 1 s, 1.5 s, 2 s, 3 s or 5 s. With **Pulse**, the label is **Pulse period**, the time for one slow cycle, and 2 s is marked “(slow)”.
Reset flash	Clears this type’s flash settings.

TIPS

- Changes apply to polygons that are already flashing.
- Tagged versions such as **Tornado Warning (PDS)** use the parent type’s flash until they get their own, either from their own row or from the buttons under **Toasts, sounds & map flash**, which set every visible type.

12 Play a sound for new alerts

Pick a built-in beep, chime or siren for any alert type. Built-in sounds work on every plan.

1. Click an alert type’s row.
2. Under **Sound & notification**, pick a sound in the **Sound** menu.
3. Click **Preview** to hear it.

SOUND	
No sound	The default for every type.
Beep	Four short beeps. **Beep (long)** plays eight. **Beep (high)** and **Beep (high, long)** are higher pitched.
Chime	Three rising two-tone chimes. **Chime (long)** plays six. **Chime (high)** and **Chime (high, long)** are higher pitched.
Siren	A short rising and falling siren. **Siren (long)** runs longer. **Siren (high)** and **Siren (high, long)** are higher pitched.
Your MP3s	Sounds you uploaded. Creator only; see the next section.
Preview	Plays the selected sound. Disabled for **No sound**.

TIPS

- To give every visible type a sound at once, use **Turn on sounds (beep)** under **Toasts, sounds & map flash**.
- When several alerts arrive together, each different sound plays once.
- Tagged versions use the parent type's sound until you pick one for them.
- The menu has no volume control. Use your computer's or browser tab's volume.
- Browsers block sound on a page you haven't clicked yet. After you open or reload the app, click anywhere in it once.

13 Upload your own alert sounds CREATOR

Upload MP3s, such as your station's tornado tone, and assign them to any alert type.

1. Sign in on a Creator plan.
2. Click an alert type's row. Under **Sound & notification**, click **Upload** and choose an MP3.
3. When the upload finishes, the sound is assigned to that type and added to your library.
4. For other types, pick the file under **Your MP3s** in the **Sound** menu.

5 Click **Preview** to hear it.

CUSTOM SOUND CONTROLS	
Upload	Uploads an MP3 and assigns it to this type. Reads **Uploading** while it works.
Your MP3s	Your uploaded sounds, named after the file (up to 40 characters).
Remove	Shown when one of your MP3s is selected. Deletes it from your library, and every alert type that used it switches to **No sound**.
Custom MP3	Shown when a type uses an MP3 that is no longer in your library.

Needs Creator and a signed-in account. Each file must be an MP3 of 2 MB or less and 30 seconds or shorter, and you can keep up to 24 sounds. Without Creator, **Upload** and the MP3 choices open the upgrade dialog, and types set to an MP3 play no sound.

14 Alerts on the time slider and in archive mode

Alerts follow the time slider, so you can scrub back to see what was in effect. In archive mode, past NWS alerts come back with the event.

In live mode, the map shows the alerts that were in effect at the slider time. On the newest frame, alerts follow the clock, so a new warning draws as soon as it is issued. US alerts arrive over a live NWWS stream that reconnects on its own and catches up when you return to the browser tab.

TIME SETTINGS	
Always only display active watches & warnings	Off by default. When on, the map and **Active alerts** always show what is in effect now, whatever the slider time. Shown on **Customize** while alerts are on.

How far back you can scrub alerts follows the longest duration set on the board for radar, satellite, MRMS, RTMA or surface analysis, at least 1 hour and up to your plan’s radar history limit. Set a longer radar duration to load more alert history.

1. For a past event, switch the time bar from **Live** to **Archive**.
2. In **Archive Builder**, set the window, then check **NWS alerts** under **Overlays**. Alerts go back to 1986.
3. Click **Apply**. Alerts follow the archive playhead, and the layer shows as **Archived NWS alerts** in **Edit Layers**.

In archive mode, the **Alerts** button is greyed out (“Load an archive event to enable”) until an event is loaded. Archived alerts come from the Iowa Environmental Mesonet (IEM) archive. Your colors, outlines, types and filters apply to them too.

15 Save and switch alert bundles

An alert bundle stores your whole alert setup under a name. Apply one to swap looks, drive the ticker, or change alerts between scenes.

1. Set up alerts the way you want on **Customize**.
2. Click the **Bundles** tab, type a name in **Name this preset…** and click **Save current** (or press `Enter`).
3. To switch, click a bundle’s name. Your current alert settings are replaced by the bundle’s.
4. Click **Update** to overwrite a bundle with your current settings, **Rename** to change its name, or **Delete** to remove it.

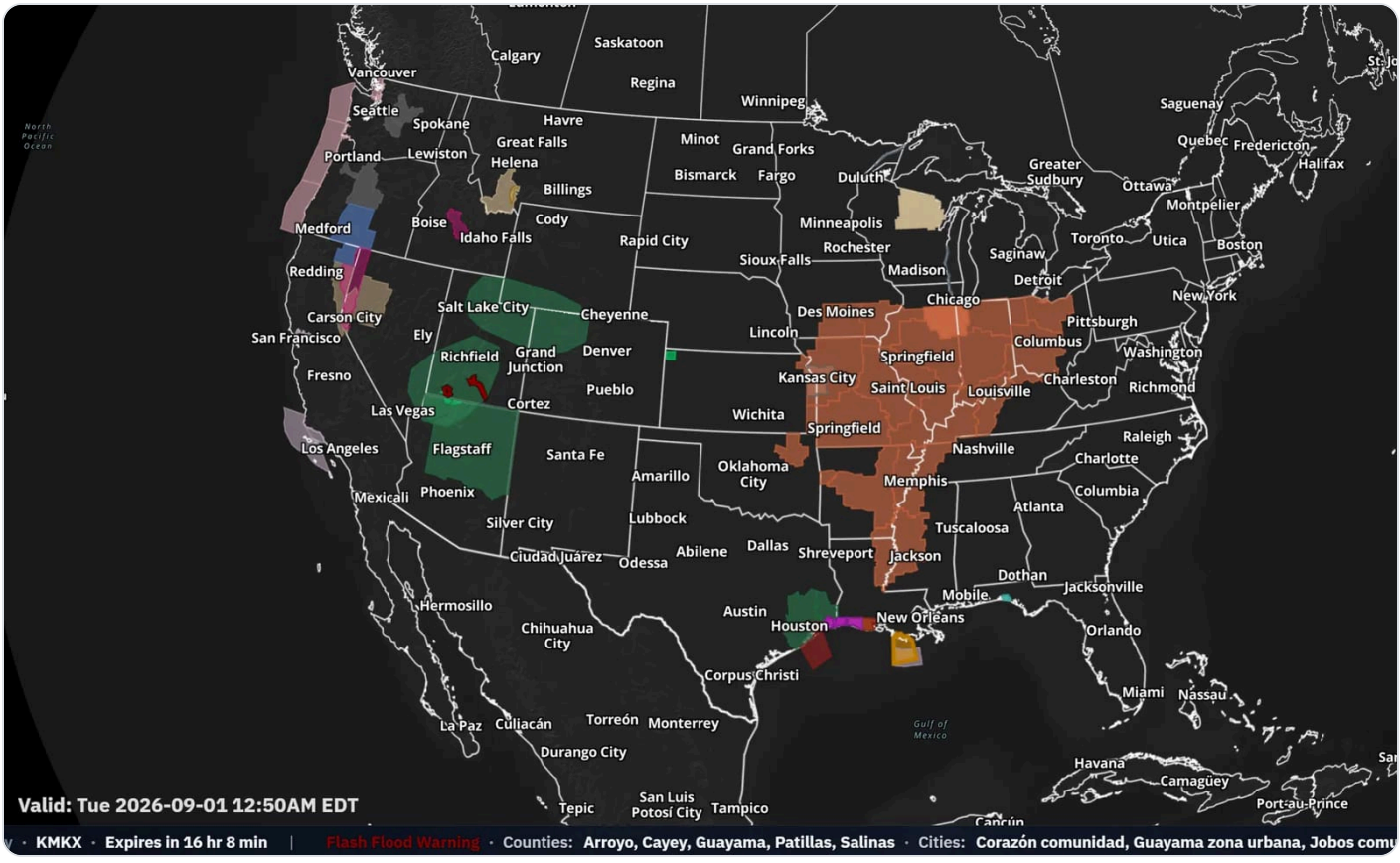
ALERT BUNDLES	
Save current	Saves your current settings as a new bundle. Disabled until you type a name.
Update	Overwrites the bundle with your current settings.
Rename	Edit the name, then click **Save** or press `Enter`. **Cancel** or `Esc` keeps the old name.
Delete	Asks for confirmation, then deletes the bundle. It can’t be undone.

A bundle stores which types are visible, colors, fill and outline settings, opacity, global style, outline style, sounds, notifications, map flash, region switches, office and state filters, the coastal zone setting, **Always only**

display active watches & warnings, and notification time and size. It doesn't store the menu's size or position. Each bundle shows how many types it hides.

TIPS

- Each bundle can get a keyboard shortcut, listed as **Apply NWS alert bundle "name"** in **Settings**, **Keyboard shortcuts**. None is set by default.
- On Creator, the alerts ticker can use a bundle instead of the map's settings: in **Settings**, **Appearance**, **NWS ticker**, turn off **Sync with map** and pick the bundle under **NWS alert bundle**.
- In a scene, the **Alerts** setting picks an alert bundle for that scene with **Choose alerts**. **Unset** keeps the alerts in use.
- Data bundles and workflows can carry alerts too: turn on **Save alerts to bundle** or **Save alerts to this workflow** when you save one.



The alerts ticker along the bottom of a globe view.

16 Recipe: only tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings for your office, with a siren

A quiet map that shows only TOR and SVR warnings from one forecast office, sounds a siren for tornadoes and keeps each notification up until you dismiss it.

1. Double-click **Alerts** on the toolbar to turn alerts on, then single-click it to open the menu.
2. Expand **Map visibility** and click **Turn off watches**, **Turn off other non-warnings** and **Turn off warnings**. The map is now empty.
3. In **Search alerts...**, type “tornado warning”. Turn on the switches for **Tornado Warning**, **Tornado Warning (Emergency)**, **Tornado Warning (Observed)** and **Tornado Warning (PDS)**.
4. Search “severe thunderstorm warning” and turn on **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**, **(Considerable)** and **(Destructive)**.
5. Expand **Forecast office filter (US)**, type your office code, for example OUN for Norman, in **Add code (e.g. MKX)** and click **Add**.
6. Clear the search and click the **Tornado Warning** row. Set **Sound** to **Siren (high, long)** and click **Preview**. Turn on **Notification**.
7. Under **Map flash**, turn on **Flash**, keep **Animation** on **Flash**, and set **Duration (seconds)** to 30. Unless you have set them separately, the Observed, PDS and Emergency versions use the same sound, notification and flash.
8. Click **Back to alerts**, open **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**, set **Sound** to **Chime** and turn on **Notification**.
9. Expand **Toasts, sounds & map flash** and set **Notification display time** to **Until dismissed**.
10. On **Bundles**, name it “OUN warnings” and click **Save current**.

TIPS

- Click anywhere in the app once after it opens so the browser lets the siren play.
- The office filter also hides Canadian and European alerts. Add a second office for a neighboring area you watch.

17 Recipe: outline-only warnings that pulse when issued

A clean look for streaming or chasing: every alert as a bold outline over radar, watches lightly shaded, and new warnings that pulse.

1. Open the Alerts menu and expand **Global style settings**.

2. Click **Hide fill**. Set **Inner width (px)** to 3 and **Outer ÷ inner thickness** to 1.6×.
3. Open **Tornado Watch**, turn **Show fill** on and set **Fill opacity** to 15%. Do the same for **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**.
4. Tornado, severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings already have a black casing. To match them, open **Special Weather Statement (Convective)** and set **Outer** to black. Do the same for any other type you want to stand out.
5. Expand **Toasts, sounds & map flash** and click **Use slow pulse**. Every visible type now pulses for 10 seconds when issued.
6. Open **Tornado Warning** and, under **Map flash**, set **Flash color** to yellow and **Duration (seconds)** to 60.
7. Save it on **Bundles** as “Chase outlines”.

TIPS

- **Flash to transparent** makes a pulsing outline fade in and out instead of changing color.
- Switch back to your everyday look by clicking another bundle.

18 Where alert settings are saved

Alert styles, filters and notifications belong to your account. Whether alerts are on belongs to each panel.

WHAT IS SAVED WHERE	
Customize	Everything on this tab, including notification time and size, saves to your account a moment after each change and loads on any device you sign in on. Signed out, it resets when you reload.
Bundles	Alert bundles save to your account. Signed out, they last until you reload.
Your MP3s	Your sound library is stored with your account.
Alerts	Whether alerts are on is part of each panel’s layers, so it is saved with the board and with any data bundle or workflow you save. **Sync Alerts** is set per board.

Drag to resize (saved)	The menu’s size and position save to your account and to this browser.
Default bundle overlays	The **Alerts** checkbox in **Settings**, **Data** is an account setting.
Feature popups	Popup style, outline-only clicks and multiple popups are set in **Settings**, **Appearance**.

A data bundle, workflow or scene that carries alerts applies them when it loads without saving them over your account settings. If you then change an alert setting, everything you see, including the loaded alerts, is what gets saved. Applying an alert bundle from the **Bundles** tab saves it as your current settings.

19 Common questions

Answers to the questions people ask most about alerts.

Why isn’t an alert showing on the map?

Check, in order: alerts are on for this panel (double-click **Alerts**, or turn on **Sync Alerts**); the alert type’s switch is on under **Alert appearance**; the type doesn’t have both fill and outline turned off; its region is on under **Regions**; it passes your office and state filters and **Hide coastal forecast zones**; and the time slider is on a time when the alert was in effect. Scrubbing back only reaches as far as the board’s longest radar, satellite, MRMS, RTMA or surface analysis duration.

I turned off Tornado Warning, but some tornado warnings still show. Why?

Observed, PDS and Emergency tornado warnings are separate types with their own map switches. Search “tornado warning” and turn them off too, or use **Turn off warnings** under **Map visibility**. The same goes for the Considerable and Destructive severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings.

Why don’t I get a notification or sound when a warning is issued?

Notifications, sounds and map flash are off for every type until you turn them on, per type or with the buttons under **Toasts, sounds & map flash**. They fire only for alerts issued, upgraded, extended or updated while the app is open, not for alerts already in effect, continuations, cancellations or expirations. The type must be visible on the map and pass your filters. On a phone, alerts don’t notify, play sounds or flash.

Why is there no sound in my browser?

Make sure the type has a sound other than **No sound** and click **Preview**. Browsers block sound until you click the page, so click anywhere in the app once after you open or reload it. Check that the browser tab and your computer aren't muted; the menu has no volume control of its own. Custom MP3s play only on Creator, while signed in, and only if the file is still in **Your MP3s**.

Why do the colors differ from the NWS map?

Default fill colors follow the NWS hazard color list, but fills draw at 50% opacity, outlines are a darker shade of the fill, and tornado, severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings are outline only with a black casing so radar shows through. Tagged versions keep their parent's color with a stronger outline. European warnings use MeteoAlarm yellow, orange and red. Your own colors, the global style, or an alert bundle, data bundle or workflow you loaded can also change them. **Reset fill** and **Reset outline** return a type to its defaults.

My office filter is set, but SPC watches and discussions from other areas still show. Why?

Products from the Storm Prediction Center (**WNS**) always pass the office filter. To narrow them, add a **State filter (US)**, or hide the watch and discussion types you don't want.

Where did the Canadian and European alerts go?

Either their switch under **Regions** is off, or an office or state filter is set. Both filters show US alerts only. Click **Clear offices** and **Clear states** to bring them back.

Can I show alerts on one panel only?

Yes. Turn off **Sync Alerts** in the **Sync** menu on the toolbar. Then click a panel to make it active and double-click **Alerts** to turn alerts on or off for that panel only. The alert style is the same on every panel.

Why does the Upload button open an upgrade dialog?

Custom alert sounds need Creator. Built-in beeps, chimes and sirens work on every plan.

My MP3 upload failed. What are the limits?

The file must be an MP3 ("File must be an MP3"), 2 MB or smaller ("MP3 must be 2MB or smaller") and 30 seconds or shorter ("Alert sounds must be 30 seconds or shorter"). You can keep up to 24 sounds; remove one to add another. You must be signed in ("Sign in to upload custom alert sounds.").

Why does Active alerts say to open a board with the Alerts layer?

The list is built from the alerts loaded on the map. Double-click **Alerts** on the toolbar to turn the layer on, and the list fills in.

Why is the Alerts button greyed out?

In archive mode the button waits for an event (“Load an archive event to enable”). Load a window in **Archive Builder** with **NWS alerts** checked under **Overlays**.

Do my alert settings follow me to another computer?

Yes, when you are signed in. Your alert settings, alert bundles and MP3 library are stored with your account. Signed out, changes last only until you reload.

Is there a keyboard shortcut for alerts?

Toggle alerts, **Alerts settings** and one **Apply NWS alert bundle** shortcut per bundle are listed in **Settings**, **Keyboard shortcuts**. None has a key by default; assign your own.