

## **New Zealand weather and climate news**

These clips come courtesy of MetService

### **MetService focus**

#### **What's behind this creepy weather cam picture?**

A creepy image captured on MetService's weather camera has left people scratching their heads as to what it could be.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2018/08/what-s-behind-this-creepy-weather-cam-picture.html>

#### **Tolaga Bay: Council says MetService didn't warn about deluge**

"Whilst it is rare for an event like this to go undetected by the models, with New Zealand's difficult terrain it can, and does, unfortunately happen," MetService Meteorological operations general manager **Ramon Oosterkamp** said.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/364221/tolaga-bay-council-says-metservice-didn-t-warn-about-deluge>

#### **Morning thunderstorms bring over 8000 lightning strikes**

MetService meteorologist **Tui McInnes** said most of the strikes were out in the Tasman Sea, but about 3500 had hit closer to land since midnight

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/106341456/Morning-thunderstorms-bring-over-8000-lightning-strikes>

#### **Lightning strikes spark up Dunedin sky**

MetService meteorologist **Tui McInnes** said there were about 50 lightning strikes around Dunedin yesterday evening.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/lightning-strikes-spark-dunedin-sky>

#### **Thunder, rain and damaging winds forecast for North Island west coast**

MetService **forecaster Andy Downs** said several active fronts were bringing brief bursts of heavy rain, strong wind gusts and the possibility of heavy hail and even small tornados.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/kapiti/106339727/thunder-rain-and-damaging-winds-forecast-for-north-island-west-coast>

### **'Horrendous' lightning strike shatters windows**

MetService meteorologist **Ravi Kendula** said lightning strikes occurred in the west coast of the North Island between 8pm last night and 8am, but that this was "not particularly" strange.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/364279/horrendous-lightning-strike-shatters-windows>

### **Heavy rain, snow, thunderstorms moving onto country during Monday**

"There's a big sort of broad area of low pressure just moving onto the country at the moment," MetService meteorologist **Matthew Ford** said around 5.30am Monday. "All the rain and so on is just moving onto the country."

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/106395929/Heavy-rain-snow-thunderstorms-moving-onto-country-during-Monday>

### **Volcano alert**

#### **Mapping volcanic ash fall for all weathers**

Research funded by the Earthquake Commission (EQC) has developed a way of calculating where the ash from a volcano is most likely to fall, and its thickness, in different parts of New Zealand.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1808/S00028/mapping-volcanic-ash-fall-for-all-weathers.htm>

### **MetOcean**

#### **Biologists ignore ocean weather at their peril**

Ecologists must understand how marine life responds to changing local conditions, rather than to overall global temperature rise, say Amanda E. Bates and 16 colleagues.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05869-5>

## **Extreme weather (and other news) – Australia and Pacific**

### **Lane weakens to a Category 3 hurricane in the Central Pacific**

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) -

Hurricane Lane is now churning through the Central Pacific basin as a powerful Category 3 hurricane on a path toward the vicinity of the Hawaiian islands.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38890702/lane-quickly-intensifies-into-a-category-2-hurricane-in-east-pacific>

### **BOM meteorologists predict cold snap next week**

ENJOY the warm weather while you can this weekend, Meteorologists from the Bureau of Meteorology have warned come Tuesday the cold winter mornings will be back in force around the region.

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/bom-meteorologists-predict-cold-snap-next-week/3496641/>

## **Extreme weather (and other news) – Asia and the Middle East, Africa**

### **Kerala Rains: Authorities across the country must prepare as extreme weather increases in frequency**

Torrential rains in Kerala have led to what is being described as the worst disaster in the state in living memory. Most of Kerala is flooded, cutting off remote areas and stranding hundreds. Since August 8, the disaster has claimed the lives of 97 people with more than 1.67 lakh being shifted to 1,165 relief camps. Kochi airport has been inundated and will remain shut till August 26. And with more rains predicted, the magnitude of the disaster could increase further.

<https://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toi-editorials/kerala-rains-authorities-across-the-country-must-prepare-as-extreme-weather-increases-in-frequency/>

## **Rise in extreme weather events in India raises concerns over climate change impact**

An analysis by IMD researchers has indicated increased disaster potential for instant flooding over central India, where the intensity and frequency of heavy and very heavy rainfall have been increasing

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/0lEa4TGyXdIadjyvArOxzL/Rise-in-extreme-weather-events-in-India-raises-concerns-over.html>

## **Flash floods leave 8 dead in north-central Vietnam and northern highlands**

At least 8 people have died and two missing as heavy rains and flash floods hit Vietnam's north-central region and northern highlands.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/flash-floods-leave-8-dead-in-north-central-vietnam-and-northern-highlands-3794347.html>

## **Strengthening Typhoon Soulik to threaten Japan, South Korea by midweek**

Residents of southern Japan and South Korea are being put on alert for strengthening Typhoon Soulik to pose serious threats to lives and property Tuesday into Thursday.

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/strengthening-typhoon-soulik-to-threaten-japan-south-korea-by-middle-of-next-week/70005807>

## **Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe**

### **Hailstorms Cost Americans Billions. It's Probably Going to Get Worse**

BOULDER, Colo. – Severe storms cause tens of billions of dollars in property damage each year. And that cost will likely go up in the coming years thanks in large part to hailstorms.

[Read more here](#)

## **International news and research**

## **Saudi Meteorology Authority inaugurates its latest weather forecast centers**

JEDDAH: President of The General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection, Dr. Khalil Musleh Al-Thaqafi, announced that the authority will establish its first hypothesis on the different weather phenomena within Saudi Arabia, the first of its kind in the Kingdom.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1355931/saudi-arabia>

## **Incident Meteorologist Works To Keep Fire Crews Safe**

When firefighting teams are sent out to wildfires, they are often accompanied by an incident meteorologist who watches weather conditions. We profile one such meteorologist out of Pueblo, Colo.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/15/638775847/incident-meteorologist-works-to-keep-fire-crews-safe>

## **Dry Thunderstorms: What Are They and Why Are They a Threat?**

Dry thunderstorms have been rolling through Southern Oregon and Siskiyou County this week—but for many, the name seems like a misnomer. Unfortunately, the phenomenon is very real.

<http://www.kdrv.com/content/news/Dry-Thunderstorms-What-are-They-and-Why-are-They-a-Threat-491042581.html>

## **Thai-German Climate Mitigation Scheme ‘Not Enough’ – Watchdog**

The Thai-German Climate Programme (TGCP) is a boon for global climate mitigation but ‘much more’ needs to be done to protect vulnerable regions, said one of Germany’s leading environment experts.

<https://impact4all.org/thai-german-climate-mitigation-scheme-is-not-enough-watchdog/>

## **WMO**

### **WMO fellowship scheme**

ECMWF and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have developed a scheme under which the Centre regularly hosts forecasters from developing countries for a number of months. The scheme is part of the WMO Fellowship Programme, which was set up after the WMO identified a need for specialised training placements to develop capacity in least developed and developing countries. The aim is to expand the international network of cooperation opportunities between experts in weather forecasting.

<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/learning/training/wmo-fellowship-scheme>

## **Aviation**

### **Inmarsat certifies SITAONAIR weather analysis product for use in SB-S platform**

GENEVA -- Satellite communications group Inmarsat has certified the EFB Weather Awareness Solution from mobile technologies company SITAONAIR for use across its SwiftBroadband-Safety (SB-S) platform.

<https://www.intelligent-aerospace.com/articles/2018/08/inmarsat-certifies-sitaonair-weather-analysis-product-for-use-in-sb-s-platform.html>

## **Energy and Mining**

### **Collaboration between lines companies celebrated**

Counties Power officially thanked their southern neighbours WEL Networks today at a breakfast to recognise WEL crews for their storm response assistance. Severe storms in mid-April took out power to nearly 15,000 properties around the southern Counties region, downing more than 200 lines.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/5/318566>

## **Satellites and radar**

### **JMA to launch new weather system to predict heavy rains**

The Japan Meteorological Agency plans to launch a new weather forecast system by 2030 in response to the frequent occurrence of heavy rain and other natural disasters, according to sources. The new system will predict the occurrence of line-shaped rain systems that produce heavy downpours half a day in advance, as well as heat and cold waves and other weather events.

<http://www.the-japan-news.com/news/article/0004635127>

### **China Builds Spy Satellites to Monitor South China Sea**

According to Chinese state media, the Chinese Academy of Sciences is now working on a fleet of 10 satellites to monitor shipping in the South China Sea. Beijing claims more than 90 percent of the sea's waters as its own, and it has developed a string of island bases with air defense systems, anti-ship missiles and bomber-capable airfields to cement its de-facto control of the region.

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-builds-spy-satellites-to-monitor-south-china-sea#gs.2Ix40ds>

### **Climate change / global warming / sea level rise**

#### **'Abrupt thaw' of permafrost beneath lakes could significantly affect climate change models**

Methane released by thawing permafrost from some Arctic lakes could significantly accelerate climate change, according to a new study. Unlike shallow, gradual thawing of terrestrial permafrost, the abrupt thaw beneath thermokarst lakes is irreversible this century. Even climate models that project only moderate warming this century will have to factor in their emissions, according to the researchers.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/08/180816143035.htm>

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