



KEISER NEWS

2024

"Small town, big heart - that's Keiser!"

March Newsletter

Vol 11

FROM MAYOR RICK CREECY

Spring Safety and Enjoyment: A Reminder to Stay Safe

As we welcome the arrival of spring, with its longer days and warmer weather, the anticipation for outdoor activities grows. Daylight Savings Time, starting on March 10th, gifts us with extra daylight hours, encouraging more of us to step outside and bask in the sunshine. Whether it's taking a leisurely walk, cycling through the neighborhood, or simply enjoying the outdoors, the increase in outdoor activities is a hallmark of the season.

However, with the increased foot and bike traffic, the potential for incidents also rises. The Keiser Police Department (Keiser PD) is proactively addressing this by ramping up their presence to ensure that everyone can safely enjoy the beautiful weather. The safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike is a top priority, and as such, a friendly reminder is in order regarding the importance of vigilance and adherence to local traffic regulations.

Speed Limit Enforcement

The Keiser PD will be strictly enforcing speed limits to protect all members of our community. In residential areas, the speed limit is 15 mph, ensuring the safety of pedestrians and cyclists alike. Main Street will have a speed limit of 30 mph, as will the roads leading out of town. These limits are not only guidelines but will be strictly enforced to ensure everyone's safety. Compliance with these speed limits is crucial for preventing accidents and ensuring a peaceful coex-

istence between vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Loose Dogs Ordinance

Another issue of concern with the increase in outdoor activity is the presence of loose dogs. While most pets are friendly and well-behaved, the reality of potential injuries from dog incidents cannot be ignored. To address this, the city has enacted ordinance 2023-01, which includes a "one strike and you're out" clause. This ordinance states that "Upon infliction of an unprovoked bite, attack, or aggressive behavior on a human or another animal, said dog will be subject to immediate removal from the city limits." This measure is in place to protect our community and ensure a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

A Call to Enjoy Safely

The Keiser PD and the city council urge everyone to make the most of the spring season safely. Look out for one another, whether you're behind the wheel, on foot, or cycling through our beautiful city. Let's respect the speed limits, be mindful of our furry friends, and ensure that the outdoor experiences we cherish are safe and enjoyable for everyone.

As we embrace the warmer weather and the beauty of spring, let's do so with a commitment to safety and consideration for all members of our community. Together, we can ensure a season filled with joy, health, and safety. Enjoy the outdoors to the fullest, but let's do it safely.

City Council meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. All welcome.

Follow us on Facebook and at our website www.cityofkeiser.com

Water bills due the 16th of each month. Late charges will be applied on the 16th and shutoff on the 27th unless the 27th is Friday.

Remember riding ATV's on city streets is a violation of state law and will be enforced.

Remember the city has a leash law. If you are walking your dog in the city limits they MUST be on a leash. No exceptions.

If you have not yet registered your dog or cat. Please come to City Hall and do so.

You can buy 40 gallon garbage bags at City Hall. There are 50 in a roll and the cost is \$10.00 per roll.

Home owners and contractors are required to notify city hall before any mechanical excavation can be done.

City Hall—870-526-2300

New City Hall Hours

Hours 8:00am to 4:45pm M-F
Closed 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch

A fellow called “Grant” By Peggy Sellars

We have this guy I call “Grant” that works for the City of Keiser. He’s a hard worker. He’s always thinking of ways to make Keiser a better place in which to live. You probably know him as Rick Creecy. Rick was appointed to finish Mayor Eddie Gardner’s term after he retired. He was then elected to his own four-year term. After his appointment, he didn’t waste any time. He started in at City Hall. In no time, we had everything cleaned up, organized, and a new floor laid.

Once that was done, he began updating our technology and creating programs that enable the business section of Keiser to run more efficiently. He did the same with the outside departments of running a city.

When he ran out of anything else to do, he started writing and submitting grants. Had he ever written a grant before? NO! Did he know how to write a grant? NO! But, he didn’t let that stop him. As I’ve said before, no one told him he couldn’t write 60 zillion grants, SO HE DID.

However, the way I looked at it, let him write his grants. Let him get it out of his system. At least, it will keep him out of my hair. Right! No, wrong again. Since I had previously worked at a newspaper, he thought it would be a good idea for me to proofread his grants (100’s of pages) before he submitted them. If I balked at the idea, he reminded me that the mayor can delegate additional duties to the Recorder/Treasurer.

It goes without saying that most grants submitted are denied for one of 3 reasons.

- There is a limit to how many grants are awarded in each category.
- Many grant applications submitted do not meet the criteria.
- Some grants are just not written correctly.

I have heard from other grant writers that you have to present an application that gets the “powers that

be” in grant heaven’s attention. Apparently “Grant” got their attention. Turns out he is pretty good at writing and submitting grants. He has turned in 38 grant applications. Fifteen of those applications, so far, have been awarded, garnering the City of Keiser \$1,034,082.00 to date. He’s not done yet. He submitted another grant application this week.

At this point, I must repeat something I stated in another newsletter. We are not allowed to spend this grant money on anything but what it was awarded for.

Thanks to “Grant’s” unwavering persistence, the City of Keiser got its streets paved, our water tank cleaned and painted, our sewer system updated, a re-imagined new park with a walking track, and a first-class police department with a second full-time police officer and two auxiliary officers.

And, lucky me, I get to take care of all that money.



CHIEF ANDREW GATTIS KEISER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hello Keiser, I hope everyone is having a good year so far. I am sure most of you have already seen him around, but I would like to welcome our newest Full-Time officer, Gaylon Payton, to the City of Keiser. Officer Payton will be a great addition to our department. So, when you see him out patrolling stop by and introduce yourself. He is looking forward to serving the community and growing alongside us.

During the month of February Officer Payton and myself, Chief Gattis, attended a CRASE instructor course with Texas A&M. CRASE stands for "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events". With both of us learning the course material and becoming certified to teach this course this will allow us to teach an Active Shooter course to our community and those around us to better prepare everyone just in case there is ever an incident. We hope that an incident like that will never occur in or around our community, but I would also like to make sure that we are all well prepared and know what to do and how to respond during a situation like that. Those of us here at the police department will make sure we stay vigilant and proactive to do our best to prevent such an incident from occurring because our main priority is to the community and the safety of its members.

The class will be announced later this month, and, in that announcement, there will be a date, time and address of when and where the class will take place. The class will be open to anyone who would like to attend, including those outside of our community.

This month is going to be a big month for us here at the police department. During the month of March I will be attending the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association's annual conference where I will be getting certified in more classes so that I can come back and teach our officers. This means all our officers will become more knowledgeable and better equipped to serve our community and the city of Keiser.

I was also selected to attend the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Development Program, which is a big deal for our department. This program allows us access to learn and implement the best practices, policies, and procedures for the state of Arkansas. This means that our department will be on the way to operating at the highest standards, for a police department, that are recommended by the state. Currently there are only 21 total departments in the entire state that have met and currently operate on that level of standard. My goal is to make the Keiser Police Department number 22 on that list. Once we obtain that standard that will also make us the first and only department in Mississippi County that meets those requirements. So, it will be a big accomplishment for our department and our community.

With the weather warming up I would like to start putting together some ideas and plans for community events. If anyone would like to reach out to me and either give me some ideas or help with the planning please feel free to come by the office and speak with me or you can contact me by phone at (870) 526-2102 or Email at: chief.cityofkeiser@gmail.com.

NEAL BROWN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Here's an exciting update on our utility work progress! Our diligent contractors have been hard at work since February, and I'm thrilled to report that we're about 25% through the scheduled repairs and upgrades. Let's take a moment to review the enhancements being made to our water system infrastructure:

- The exterior of the tank is undergoing abrasive blast cleaning and painting, ensuring both protection and longevity.
- A new flap-valve, screen, and splash pad will be installed for the tank overflow pipe to better manage excess water.
- We're upgrading with a new aluminum roof vent on the tank for improved ventilation.
- A new 30-inch diameter manway on the tank will be installed, enhancing access and maintenance capabilities.
- We're adding a new water mixer to the tank to ensure

consistent water quality by promoting circulation.

- There will be various miscellaneous repairs on the tank to address any minor issues and ensure optimal performance.
- The treatment building is getting necessary electrical repairs to maintain safety and functionality.
- Both the pipe gallery and the treatment building will benefit from abrasive blast cleaning and painting, protecting them from corrosion.
- We're installing a new roof on the treatment building to safeguard our equipment and facilities from the elements.
- And we'll be performing miscellaneous repairs in the treatment building to keep everything in top shape.

These enhancements are part of our commitment to providing the community with the best possible water services. We'll continue to keep you informed as we hit more milestones. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work towards these important improvements!

PENNY WILBANKS WATER/CITY HALL COORDINATOR

How Do I Know if I'm Doing the Right Thing?

In general, when you do something with faith that matches your morals, creates the welfare of others, and gives you contentment, peace, and self-pride, it means you are doing the right thing.

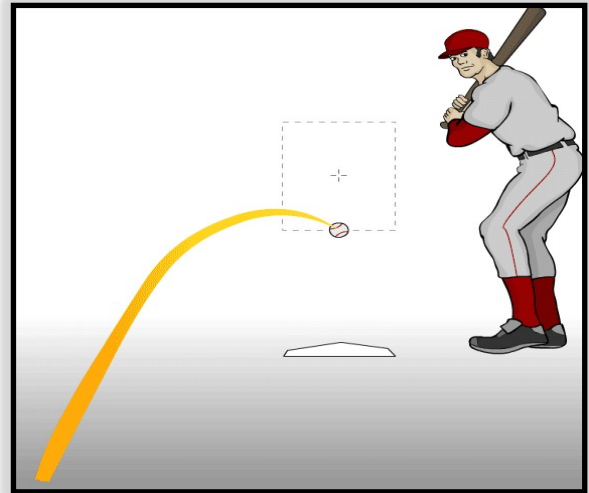
Although, this definition may alter from situation to situation because life is uncertain, mysterious, and can't be defined in some lines.

"Life will always throw you curveballs; it's your job to swing the bat."

One of the best scales to measure your deed is to ask yourself and examine your emotional state. If you get positive vibes and don't resonate with evil feelings such as hatred, jealousy, and anger, it means you are not doing anything wrong.

"In the conflict between the heart and brain, follow your heart."

Always try to listen to your intuition (gut feeling) and then think about others by asking if what you will do is fair to them. If the answer is "Yes," it means you are doing it right.



New City Hall Hours



Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 4:45

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 - 1:00

Preparing for Severe Conditions in Keiser

As residents of Keiser, we are no strangers to the unpredictable and sometimes devastating forces of nature. The memory of the tornado that struck our community in 2018 is a stark reminder of the havoc severe weather can wreak in just moments. As we move into the months traditionally known for turbulent weather, it's crucial for all of us to remain vigilant and prepared.

Tornado Safety Tips

In light of our history and the upcoming weather patterns, here are essential safety tips every resident should follow to minimize the risks associated with tornadoes:

1. **Stay Informed:** Always have a way to receive weather alerts, whether through a weather app, radio, or TV.
2. **Identify Safe Spaces:** Know the safest place in your home to take shelter, typically a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows and exterior walls.
3. **Prepare a Survival Kit:** Assemble a kit with water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, a first-aid kit, and important documents.
4. **Practice Drills:** Regularly conduct tornado drills with your family so everyone knows what to do if a tornado warning is issued.
5. **Secure Loose Objects:** Tie down or bring inside any loose objects in your yard that could become projectiles during high winds.
6. **Protect Your Head:** Use helmets or pillows to protect your head and neck from debris during a tornado.

Sewer System Strain: A Call for Water Conservation

Our community also faces challenges with the sewer system, particularly when significant rainfall occurs over a short period. Such conditions overload our sewer system, putting additional

strain on our infrastructure. The issue of water conservation becomes critical in these times to minimize the impact on our sewer system.

With the anticipated installation of the new lagoon lift station, scheduled to ship to the contractor on February 19th, we expect a significant improvement in our sewer system's capacity and efficiency. This upgrade is a step forward in addressing the overload issue. Furthermore, the televising of our sewer lines, planned for completion by the end of April, will provide us with a clear understanding of the system's current state, identifying areas that require urgent repair and helping us formulate a comprehensive plan for necessary improvements.

How You Can Help

During periods of heavy rain or severe weather, we urge all residents to practice water conservation to ease the burden on our sewer system. Simple actions, such as avoiding long showers, running dishwashers or washing machines only when full, and fixing any leaks promptly, can make a significant difference.

Looking Ahead

The resilience of our community in the face of adversity is our greatest strength. By staying informed, preparing for severe weather, and working together to conserve water, we can mitigate the impacts of these challenges and continue to thrive. The upcoming installations and repairs to our sewer system are vital steps toward a stronger, more resilient Keiser. Let's stay prepared, stay safe, and support each other through whatever weather comes our way.



Mississippi County Weather Alert System

In a groundbreaking move to bolster its emergency response capabilities, the Mississippi County Emergency Management has adopted the Hyper-Reach weather alert system, a decision that underscores the county's commitment to safeguarding its residents against severe weather events. This innovative technology, designed to provide real-time weather updates and warnings, is now a critical component of the county's emergency preparedness strategy.

Mississippi County Steps Up With Hyper-Reach

The Mississippi County Emergency Management's implementation of Hyper-Reach is a testament to the system's adaptability and effectiveness in providing hyper-localized alerts. Residents of Mississippi County can now expect to receive timely notifications of potential severe weather conditions directly on their cell phones, akin to receiving an Amber Alert. This ensures that warnings are both unavoidable and conspicuous, increasing the likelihood that residents will take immediate action.

For those with landlines, the system extends its reach by placing automated calls to home phones to alert residents of impending weather dangers. This dual-channel approach guarantees that all residents, regardless of their preferred communication methods, are informed and prepared to respond to weather-related emergencies.

Immediate Action: The Key to Safety

Upon receiving a Hyper-Reach alert, Mississippi County residents are advised to take shelter immediately. The system's precision in forecasting and alerting means that when an alert is issued, the situation is imminent and requires urgent action. The clarity and directness of the messages aim to minimize confusion and prompt a swift, life-saving response.

The implementation of Hyper-Reach by the Mississippi County Emergency Management signifies a proactive approach to combat the challenges posed by severe weather. It reflects an understanding that in the face of nature's unpredictability, the best defense is a well-informed and prepared community.

Community Empowerment Through Technology

The integration of Hyper-Reach into Mississippi County's emergency management protocols empowers the community, giving residents the tools and information needed to protect themselves and their loved ones. The system's effectiveness in delivering timely alerts through both modern and traditional communication channels ensures widespread coverage and accessibility.

As Mississippi County moves forward with Hyper-Reach, it sets a precedent for other regions to follow, highlighting the importance of leveraging technology to enhance emergency preparedness and response. The initiative not only enhances the county's resilience against severe weather but also demonstrates a commitment to utilizing innovative solutions to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents.



Met the Bosleys - Abundant Harvist Church

Abundant Harvest of Osceola, a vibrant and newly established church, has found its home at the heart of Keiser, AR, located precisely at 200 W Main Street. This spiritual community originally took root in Osceola, AR, under the name Higher Purpose Ministries, where it ignited the flames of faith among the youth through an engaging group known as Friday Fire. In January 2023, they embarked on a new journey, opening their doors as Abundant Harvest of Osceola, marking a significant milestone in their mission.

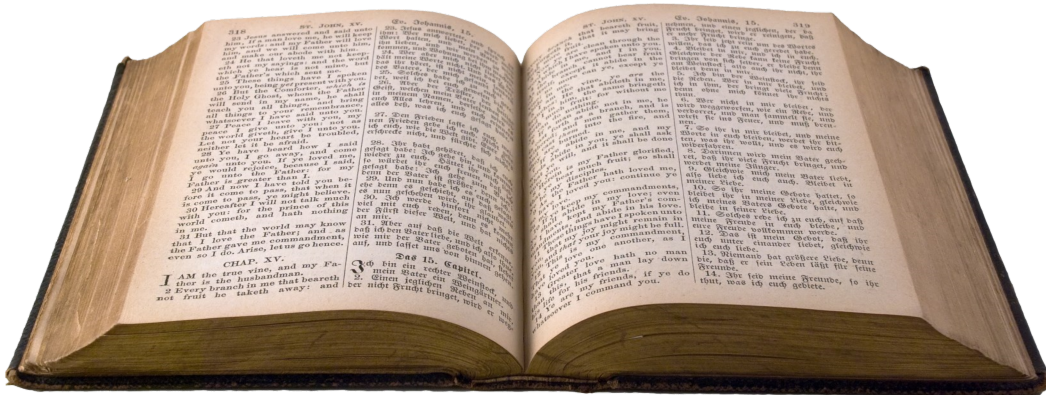
By 2024, the church expanded its horizons with unwavering faith, establishing a branch in Keiser, AR. The congregation, characterized by its dynamic nature and a deep commitment to community engagement, believes fervently in outreach as a cornerstone for fostering meaningful connections. As new members of the Mississippi County community, they aspire to serve as a beacon of hope and a source of light at their new address, 200 W Main Street.

Abundant Harvest of Osceola welcomes all to join their worship services, offering a spiritual sanctuary every Sunday at 11:15 AM, a dedicated Prayer Service on Wednesdays, and an enriching Bible Study on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. Their charitable endeavors are manifested through Hearts for Harvest, a platform through which the church actively supports community outreach initiatives. One notable program, Loads of Love, sees church members visiting local laundromats to offer financial assistance for laundry services, embodying the church's com-

mitment to practical acts of kindness.

The church also hosts a "Fun Day" in June for the youth, providing a day filled with joy, hot dogs, and a variety of clean fun activities, reinforcing their commitment to community and family-friendly events. Additionally, their annual Christmas baskets initiative showcases their generosity, as they carefully assemble and distribute food and pantry items to five randomly selected families across various communities, spreading joy and support during the festive season.

Under the guidance of Pastor David A. Bosley, who brings five years of ministry experience to his leadership role, the church flourishes. Pastor Bosley, together with Lady Tiffany, leads a blended family of six children: Jakeel, TiShawn, Samuel, Benjamin, David, Jr., and Emmalynn, embodying the values of family unity and spiritual leadership within their congregation and beyond.



Beautifying Keiser: A Community Effort

Nestled within the heart of our cherished community, Keiser boasts a unique blend of warmth, camaraderie, and scenic beauty that sets it apart as a jewel of our region. At the core of this distinctive charm lies a deep-seated spirit of unity and pride among its residents, a spirit that has the power to transform and elevate the aesthetic and environmental quality of our town. The Beautification Committee of Keiser stands as a testament to this spirit, spearheading initiatives aimed at nurturing and amplifying the natural beauty that surrounds us. This call to action is an invitation to every resident of Keiser to play an active role in this transformative journey, through various avenues such as joining the Beautification Committee, engaging in simple acts of cleanliness, and taking pride in the maintenance of personal and communal spaces.

Embark on a Journey with the Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee represents more than a collective of volunteers; it is a dynamic force of individuals whose passion for beautification and sustainability drives them to initiate and lead projects that make a lasting impact on the visual and ecological landscape of Keiser. By becoming a member, you gain the privilege of contributing your unique perspectives and enthusiasm to a variety of projects, including the design and cultivation of community gardens, orchestrating town-wide cleanup initiatives, and advocating for sustainable practices. It is an opportunity to collaborate with like-minded individuals and play a pivotal role in shaping the aesthetic future of our town.

The Impact of Collective Cleanliness Efforts

The foundation of a visually appealing community is its cleanliness. An effortless yet profoundly influential act that each of us can incorporate into our daily lives is the removal of litter from our surroundings. Whether it's during a leisurely walk in the park, a routine stroll through our neighborhoods, or while attending local events, dedicating a moment to pick up and properly dispose of litter not only enhances the immediate environment but also inspires a culture of respect and care for our shared spaces. The cumulative effect of these individual acts can dramatically transform the cleanliness and appeal of our town, fostering a sense of pride and communal responsibility among its residents.

The Vital Role of Property Maintenance

The aesthetic appeal of Keiser is significantly influenced by the appearance and upkeep of our homes and surrounding properties. Regular maintenance tasks, such as lawn care, the cultivation of flowerbeds, and the decluttering of outdoor spaces, are essential components of our town's overall charm. Incorporating native plants and flowers into your garden not only adds beauty but also supports the local ecosystem, promoting biodiversity and sustainability. A well-maintained property not only enhances your own living experience but also contributes to the collective beauty of Keiser, creating a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for all.

A Community-wide Effort to Eliminate Clutter

Clutter, whether in the form of misplaced items, excessive outdoor equipment, or neglected waste, can significantly detract from the natural and cultivated beauty of our environment. By taking proactive steps to minimize clutter on our properties and in public spaces, we contribute to a more organized, clean, and aesthetically pleasing community. This includes adhering to proper waste disposal practices, organizing outdoor areas, and encouraging our neighbors to embrace similar habits. A clutter-free Keiser is a step towards a more serene and visually appealing town for residents and visitors alike.

Conclusion: A Unified Vision for a More Beautiful Keiser

The journey to enhance the beauty and livability of Keiser is a collaborative endeavor that requires the enthusiasm, participation, and commitment of every resident. Through initiatives such as joining the Beautification Committee, committing to litter removal, diligently maintaining our properties, and reducing clutter, we each have the power to make a substantial impact on the aesthetic and environmental quality of our town. Let us unite under the banner of beautification and sustainability to forge a brighter, cleaner, and more beautiful future for Keiser. Your contributions, no matter the scale, are invaluable to this mission. Together, let's embark on this rewarding journey to elevate the charm and character of Keiser, making it an exemplar of community-driven beautification and pride.

Important Reminder: All-Terrain Vehicle Road Usage in Keiser

The Keiser Police Department wishes to remind all residents and visitors of an important regulation regarding the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) within the city limits and on Arkansas roads. In accordance with AR Code § 27-21-106, it is unlawful to operate any three or four-wheeler ATV, or side-by-side, on public roads within the state of Arkansas, including the streets of Keiser.

This law is in place to ensure the safety of not only the riders of these all-terrain vehicles but also the safety of drivers and pedestrians. All-terrain vehicles are designed and manufactured for off-road use and do not possess the same safety features as road vehicles. Riding ATVs on public roads can increase the risk of accidents and injuries, potentially putting both the ATV riders and other road users in danger.

Enforcement in Keiser

The Keiser Police Department will be actively enforcing this regulation. Anyone found riding an ATV on the streets of Keiser will be issued a citation. This enforcement effort is not about penalizing our community members but about ensuring everyone's safety. We understand the appeal of ATVs and the fun they can provide, but we must prioritize the well-being of all individuals on our roads.

We urge ATV owners to respect this law and to use their vehicles only in designated areas and private properties where it is

legal and safe to do so. There are numerous trails and off-road sites that are designed for ATV use, where you can enjoy these vehicles without posing a risk to yourself or others.

A Safety-First Community

The decision to enforce AR Code § 27-21-106 strictly within Keiser is made with the community's best interests at heart. Safety is our paramount concern, and by adhering to this law, we can work together to prevent accidents and injuries on our roads.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter. Let's all contribute to making Keiser a safer place for everyone, whether they are walking, driving, or enjoying recreational activities. If you have any questions or need further clarification on the legal use of ATVs, please do not hesitate to contact the Keiser Police Department. Together, we can ensure that our community remains a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.



March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Employee Appreciation Day	2
3 National Anthem Day	4 National Sons Day	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10 Daylight Savings	11	12	13	14	15 World Sleep Day	16 Water Bill Due
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Council Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27 Cutoff Date	28	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday						

WEATHER EVENTS

V F E E Q H E O N G S T U I S T T S T P
E M X Y C P I C E S T O R M S W H O W A
R L L V Q H E A T W A V E S W T U T F G
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K Q D G O F H S J L S N F Q E G C P D L

Thunderstorms

Hurricanes

Hailstorms

Dust Storms

Tornadoes

Mudslides

Ice Storms

Wildfires

Heatwaves

Floods

Blizzards

Droughts

Tsunamis

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