

What is the Monsoon?

Monsoon Madness Forum
June 6, 2024



Tom Dang

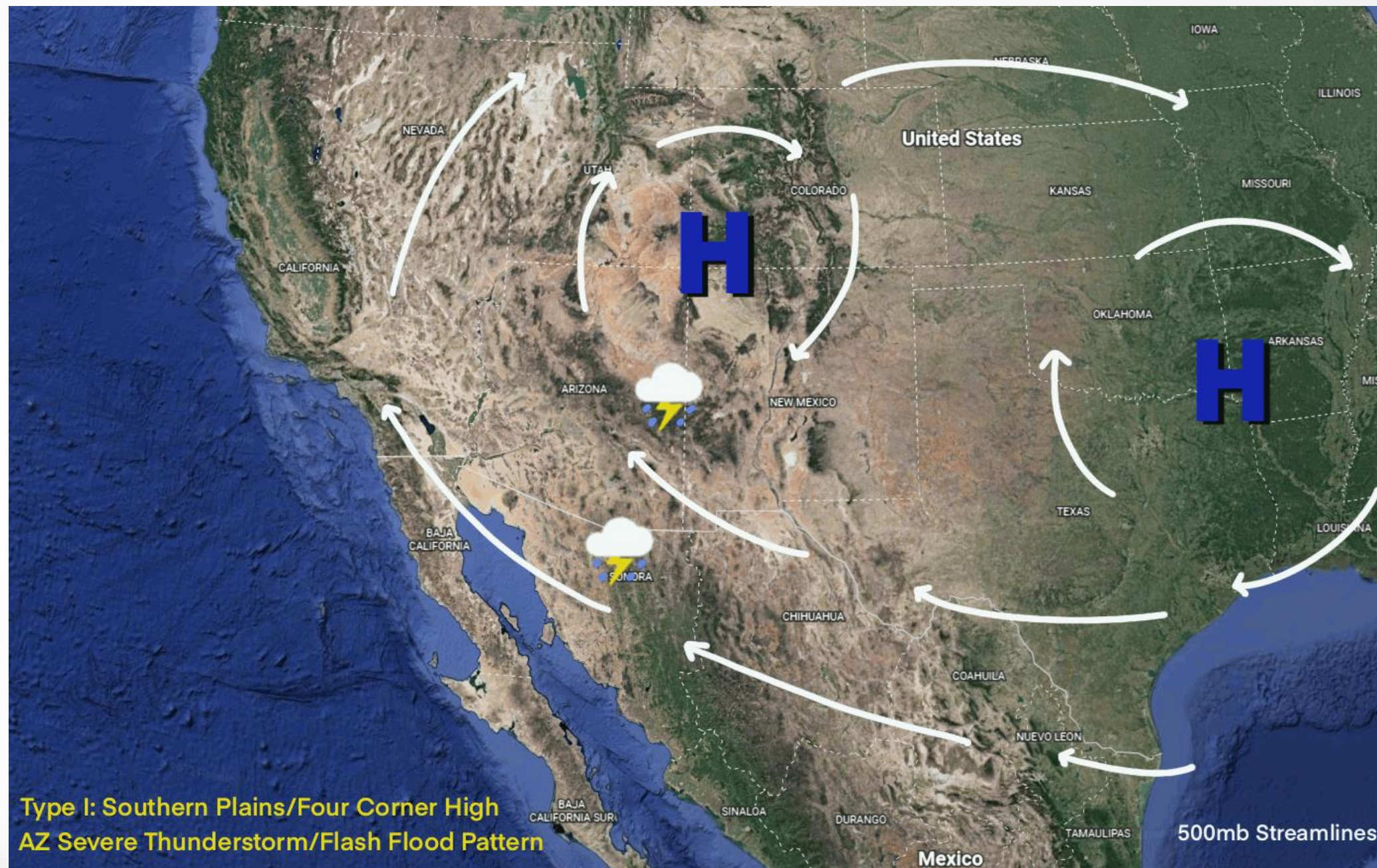


NOAA - NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NWS - Tucson, AZ



The Monsoon

- **Definition:** a seasonal reversal in wind pattern
 - East to west as opposed to west to east
- **Time of Year:** June 15 through September 30
- **Hazards**
 - Heat
 - Lightning
 - Wind damage
 - Dust storms
 - Flooding



Monsoon Hazard: Heat

Heat is the #1 Weather-Related Killer

- In most locations, heat kills more people than lightning + tornadoes + flooding + hurricanes combined
- **Heat killed 176 people** in Pima County in 2023

How to Protect Yourself

- Remain in air conditioned space, especially for those that are sensitive to heat
- Remain hydrated
- Save strenuous outdoor activities for early morning or evening hours



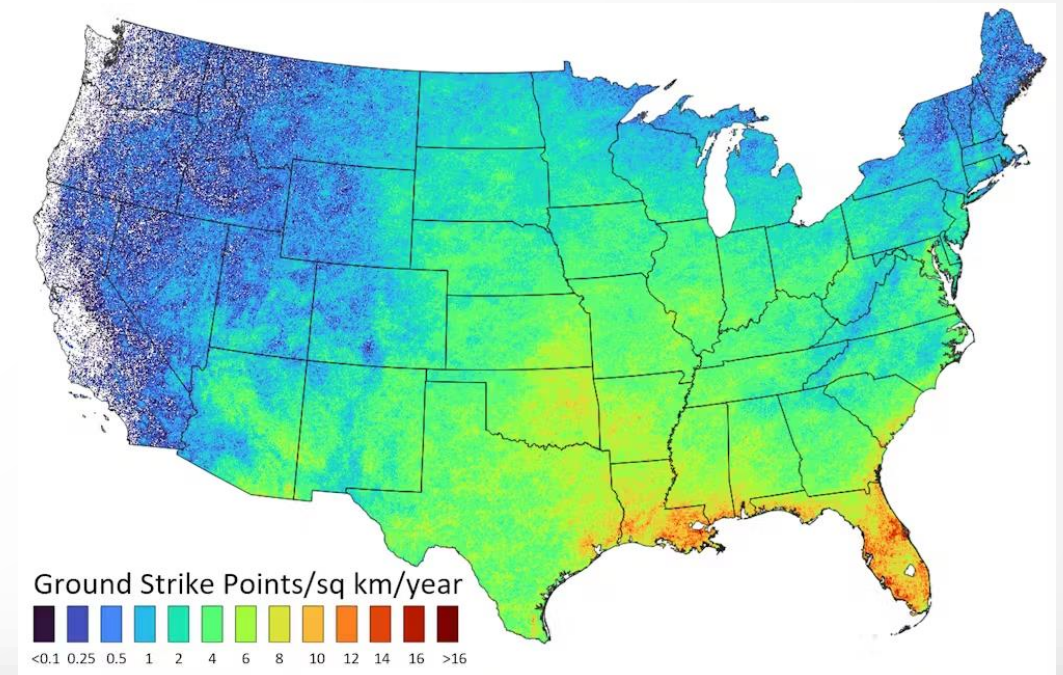
Monsoon Hazard: Lightning

Lightning is the Awe-Inspiring Killer

- Lightning kills about 20 people per year and injures hundreds more
- Can occur anytime of day (but favors afternoon and evening)

How to Protect Yourself

- The safest place to be from lightning is inside (a home, a car)
- If outdoors, avoid being or near the tallest object
- Be aware that lightning can strike up to 10 miles away!



Monsoon Hazard: Wind

Wind Damage Occurs Every Year in the Monsoon

- Downed trees, damaged structures, power outages, dust storms

How to Protect Yourself

- The safest place to be from wind is inside a home
- Have an emergency plan for if your power goes out
- If driving through a dust storm, slow down and pull to the side of the road



Monsoon Hazard: Flash Flooding

The Desert Can Go From Bone Dry to Raging Current in an Instant

- Most flooding deaths occur in vehicles

How to Protect Yourself

- The safest place to be from flooding is inside a home or on the high ground
- Do not drive through flooded roads or around barricades
 - Only a few inches of flowing water is enough to sweep a car away
 - You may not be able to see if a road has washed away under flooding



Thank You!

