

BEAR *in* MIND



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

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Health and Wellness

National Public Health Week 2026

Public health focuses on promoting and protecting the health of the community by using science and evidence-based efforts. Such as monitoring disease outbreaks, protecting clean water and air, occupational health, food safety inspections and more. Public health has dramatically transformed life expectancy and quality of life in the United States.



National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2026, aims to invite everyone to look back at the progress that was made and renew their commitment to strengthening the systems, science, and community partnerships that keep us healthy. This year, NPHW is celebrated April 6– 12, 2026, and the theme for this year is Ready, Set, Action.

The key points for this year theme are government partners, scientific advancement, communities' leadership and us. Government agencies and public health professionals must collaborate with the same goal. Coordination across different local, state and federal agencies is the backbone of clean water, safe food, disease prevention and emergency response. Scientific advancements made public health viable by proving evidence and research for the communities. This is possible if the communities accept public health by promoting and having the resources for the people living in the communities.

For more information: please visit [American Public Health Association](https://www.apha.gov/).

Inside this Issue

National Public Health Week 2026	1
Be Prepared for a Wildfire	2
Protecting Water Quality	3

Dates to Remember

- April 22** - Earth Day
- April 24** - National Arbor Day
- April 25** - Drug Take Back Day
- May 4 - 8** - Finals Week
- May 8 & 9** - Commencement
- May 10** - Mother's Day
- May 25** - Memorial Day (Campus Closed)
- June 14** - Flag Day
- June 19** - Juneteenth (Campus Closed)
- June 21** - Father's Day

Safe Thought

"Success is No Accident!"



Safety/Fire Focus

Be Prepared for a Wildfire

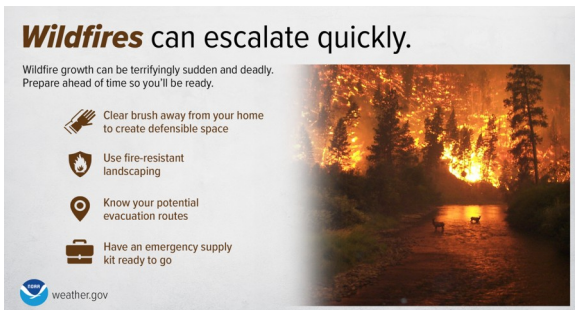
Wildfire can happen anywhere, anytime. Wildfires spread quickly and can threaten property, lives, and livelihoods. Some areas of Colorado have experienced 25 Red Flag Warning days in 2026. That means, one in every three days has had an elevated fire risk in parts of Colorado. Let's find out how you can be prepared for a wildfire.



Words to Know

- **Evacuation** - Leaving an area that has been declared unsafe
- **Fire Weather Watch** - A notice that dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours
- **Red Flag Warning** - A Fire Weather Warning, it is a warning for when fire danger exists because of weather patterns
- **Evacuation Notice** - Tells you that a fire is nearby, and it is important or mandatory to leave the area

Know if your area of residence has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). These plans help communities and residents understand their risk, mitigation, and preparation for a wildfire.



Preparing for Wildfires

- **Recognize Warnings and Alerts** - Get signed up for emergency alerts in your area
- **Make an Emergency Plan** - Ensure that everyone knows and understands what to do if you need to evacuate
- **Review Important Documents** (i.e. insurance policies,, etc.)
- **Know your Evacuation Zone** - Know where to go when you have to evacuate quickly
- **Gather Supplies**—be prepared and know which supplies you might need

During extreme or critical wildfire risk conditions, power supply companies (i.e. Xcel Energy), may need to temporarily turn off electricity service to customers in areas. Xcel Energy may communicate a [Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#) (PSPS) event to customers up to 48 hours before a possible outage. Some outages may last for up to 72 hours. Be prepared with [basic emergency supplies](#) during a power outage.

Visit the following links for additional wildfire preparedness information.

[Ready.gov](#) - Wildfire Preparedness
[State of Colorado](#) Wildfire Information

[American Red Cross](#) Wildfire Safety
[National Weather Service](#) Wildfire Safety



EnviroHealth

Protecting Water Quality

With Northern Colorado experiencing a warmer winter and an early, spring-like start to the season, snowmelt and spring rains are already creating more runoff across our campus and community. While the weather has been a welcome change for some, it's also a great time to think about **stormwater quality** and the role we all play in protecting it.

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or melting snow flows over surfaces like sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. As it moves, it can pick up pollutants such as dirt, trash, oil, fertilizers, and pet waste, carrying them directly into storm drains. Unlike wastewater, stormwater is **not treated** before it reaches local rivers and streams.

This year's earlier snowmelt can mean faster, more concentrated runoff, increasing the chances that pollutants are washed into our waterways. That makes everyday choices even more important.

Simple Ways to Help Protect Water Quality

- **Keep it clean:** Only rain should go down storm drains—never dump liquids or waste
- **Pick up after pets:** Pet waste can quickly wash into waterways during runoff
- **Use lawn products wisely:** Avoid overusing fertilizers or applying them before storms
- **Dispose of waste properly:** Trash and yard debris can easily become water pollutants. Even small actions can have a meaningful impact on protecting our local water resources.

To learn more about stormwater quality, prevention tips, and how to report concerns, visit [City of Greeley Stormwater Quality](#).

As we enjoy the early arrival of spring, let's work together to keep our waterways clean and healthy!



Bear in Mind (BIM) is a publication brought to you by your campus Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS). We are interested in your thoughts and submissions. Contact the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) department at 970-351-1149. Suggestions can also be sent by campus mail attention EHS, Campus Box 57. Bear in Mind issues are published every quarter. Find current and archived issues on-line at the [EHS Website](#).



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It is the mission of the Environmental Health and Safety Department to support university functions by promoting a safe and healthy campus environment for students, faculty, , staff and visitors, as well as to provide professional guidance and direction toward compliance with University, Federal, State and local rules and regulations.