



## The Catastrophe Service Challenge

### Did limited visibility due to a blizzard prompt a car accident?

#### The Scenario

An insured in Chesapeake, Virginia stated that limited visibility contributed to a car accident the evening of January 3, 2018. Using *PLRB's* **new** Watches & Warnings Research Web App, how do you determine if the insured was affected by a blizzard?

#### Answer

From the **PLRB Homepage**, at [www.plrb.org](http://www.plrb.org), perform the following:

Hover your mouse over **Weather/Cats** on the top navigation bar.

Under **Weather Research** click on **Maps & Apps Portal Home**.



On the Portal homepage, scroll to the right until you see the link for the **Watches & Warnings Research Web App**.

# PLRB



Photo courtesy of FEMA/Carolyn Augustine Louisiana 2005

## CATASTROPHE SERVICES

### Featured Maps and Apps



Risks and Hazards



Watches & Warnings  
Research

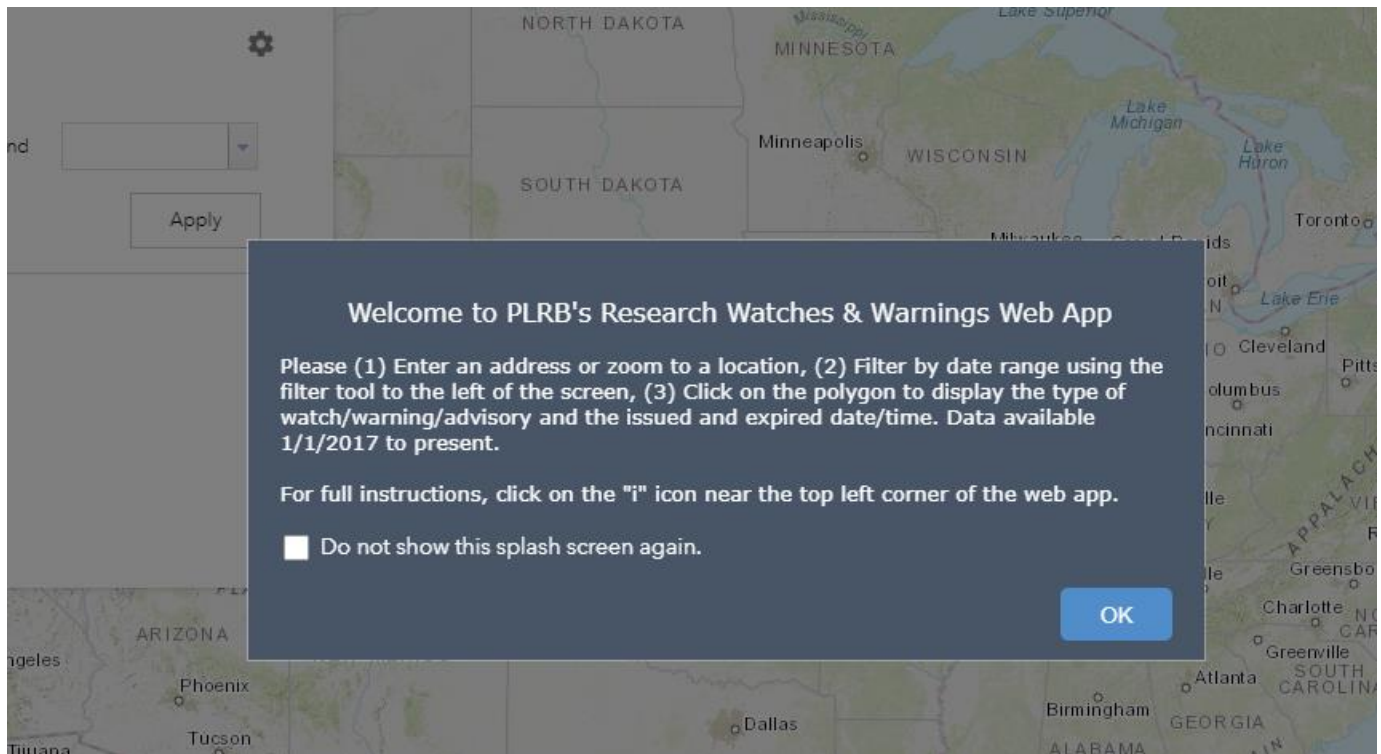


Wildfires

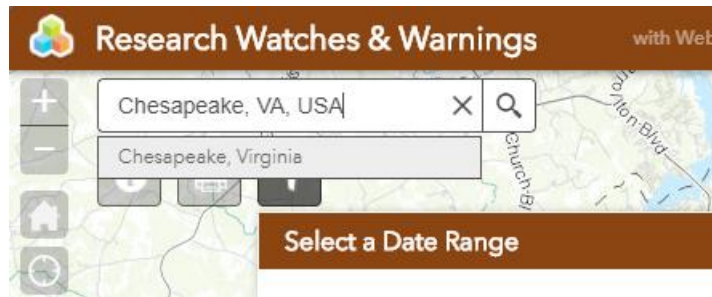


Wind/Tornado Research

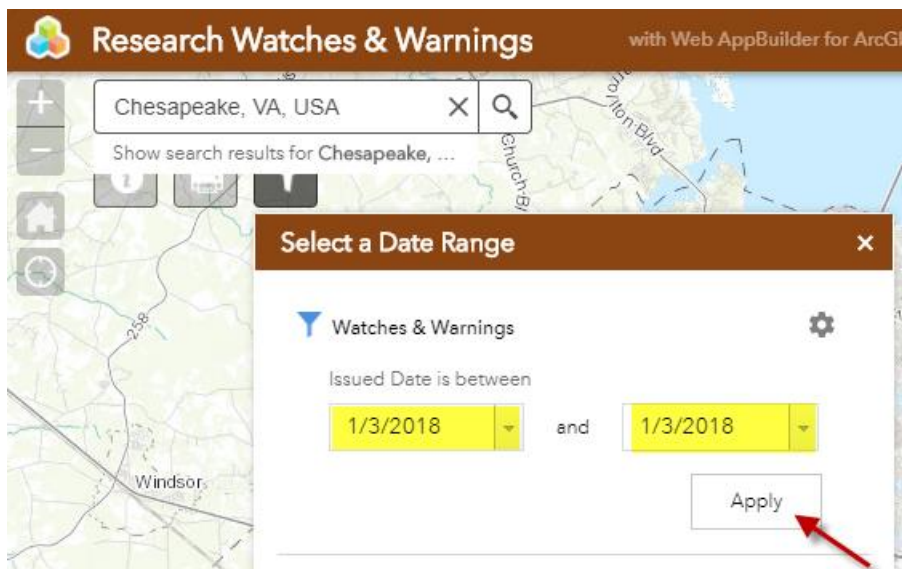
After the web app loads, please read the splash screen and click ok.



Next, enter *Chesapeake, Virginia* in the Enter Address text box and press Enter. The map will be re-centered and an address marker will be placed at the location.

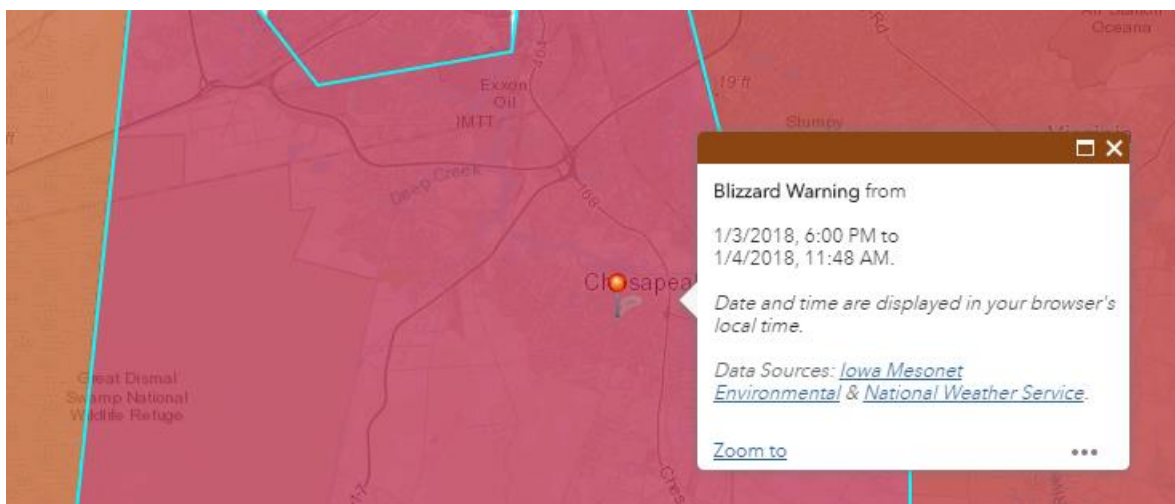


To filter the watches and warnings by the event's issued date, select the date range using the **Select a Date Range** filter widget on the left hand side of the screen. Then click **Apply**. You may close the date filter widget.



After you click **Apply**, any historical watches, warnings, or advisories for the date(s) will become visible on the map (the checkbox next to Watches & Warnings under the Layer List is marked as *checked* automatically).

Click on the map near the address marker to view a popup with more information. A blizzard warning was in effect for the county from 1/3/2018 6PM to 1/4/2018 11:48AM. The time appears as your browser's local time.



## **National Weather Service Watches, Warnings, and Advisories**

PLRB began archiving this data on 1/1/2017. Data is available 1-2 days after the event has expired. Date and time are displayed in your browser's local time. Long term watches and warnings such as Tornado Watch, Winter Weather Advisory, High Wind Warning, etc. are typically issued for entire counties. Short term warnings (severe thunderstorm warning, tornado warning, and flash flood warning) are typically displayed as irregular polygons. PLRB does not archive Gale Warnings, Air Stagnation Advisories, or Brisk Wind Advisories. This data is obtained as shapefiles from Iowa Mesonet Environmental. The color symbology will be updated in 2018 as this is the scheduled update for NWS to update their legend.

Andrew Louchios, GISP  
IT - Geospatial Specialist  
Catastrophe Services  
[alouchios@plrb.org](mailto:alouchios@plrb.org)  
630-724-2233