



# Availability of UV Index Forecast Information on Mobile Devices



Craig S. Long

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

The US National Weather Service (NWS) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have worked together since the early 1990's to generate and provide UV Index forecasts and UV radiation information to the public. EPA's SunWise web page has been the main outlet by which the public accesses the NWS UV Index forecasts for nearly a decade. The UV Index is the most accessed item in EPA's public database, with over one million hits per month. As technology continues to advance and the ways that the public gets its information continue to change, we must keep pace in the ways we provide the UV Index to the public. The public gets more of its information now via personal devices. Applications (App) are now the standard through which information is obtained. The EPA has recognized this and has developed a free App for the UV Index forecast. The App can either use the device's current location or any US ZIP code can be entered. The App then retrieves the next day's solar noon and hourly UV Index forecasts for that location along with the appropriate sun-safety action steps. Additionally, the App provides solar noon UV Index forecast maps for the continental US for the following four days. The NWS generates the UV Index forecasts and includes the effects of sun position, total ozone, elevation, snow albedo, aerosol optical depth and cloud transmission.

The UV Index App has four information displays:

- Daily
- Hourly
- Daily Map
- and Info



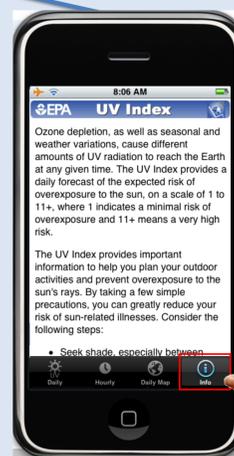
The 'Daily' screen will provide the forecasted solar noon UV Index for the location of the smartphone or any entered ZIP code. The UV Index value is colored according to the WHO UV Index standards with associated exposure category. Action information and precautionary steps associated with the exposure category are provided on the adjoining page.



Tapping on the 'Hourly' symbol at the bottom brings up the hourly UV Index forecasts for the next day from sunrise through sunset. At the top you can enter any ZIP code or tap the 'locate' symbol to get your current location's forecast. Once the forecast bars are displayed, tapping on any bar will bring up an info bubble containing sun-safe actions for that UV Index value and exposure category.



Tapping on the 'Daily Map' symbol at the bottom will bring up the next four days' colored contoured forecast maps for the contiguous 48 states. Tapping on 'Day 1' through 'Day 4' will bring up those forecast maps.



Tapping on the 'Info' symbol brings up information and graphics about the UV Index, exposure categories, and associated action steps.



NOAA/Climate Prediction Center's Stratosphere Web Page



EPA's SunWise Web Page



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Contact Email: [Craig.Long@noaa.gov](mailto:Craig.Long@noaa.gov)