

Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Kristen Allison

Fire Management Specialist - Climate/Meteorology

Hometowns | Delaware and Maryland

Started at South Ops | June 2019

Favorite type of weather | Fog

Current Projects

- Local threat winds
- Decision support



What got you interested in fire weather?

Weather is such a key component when understanding fire behavior and air.

What are some of your hobbies?

Mentoring, getting more research around fire environment, running

Fun fact about Kristen

I was a firefighter on a hotshot crew for many years



Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Eric Drewitz

Meteorologist



Hometown | East Northport, NY

Started at South Ops | June 2023

Favorite type of weather | For skiing, a sunny day after fresh powder snow; for swimming, sunny and warm

Current Projects

- Developing forecast tools and data visualizations in Python
- Want to work more with climatology and managing the website

What got you interested in fire weather?

Fire weather piqued my interest since it is intertwined with climatology and subseasonal to seasonal forecasting. I am also passionate about public health and protecting life and property which it is closely tied to.

What are some of your hobbies?

Downhill skiing, swimming, playing video games

Fun fact about Eric

I lived and worked abroad in Bermuda for the Bermuda Weather Service for a little over a year



Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Jonathan O'Brien

Meteorologist



Hometown | Wrentham, MA

Started at South Ops | July 2022

Favorite type of weather | Sunny and 80°F with low humidity

Current Projects

- Improving communication of fire danger risk
- Better quantifying fuel conditions
- IMET trainee

What got you interested in fire weather?

My dad is a pilot and I got my interest from him. I became interested in fire weather working for the NWS in New Jersey and becoming the program lead at my office.

What are some of your hobbies?

Reading and trying local restaurants and coffee shops

Fun fact about Jonathan

I have storm chased a few times and saw a couple tornadoes!



Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Isaiah Osborne

Pathways Intern



Hometown | Nashville, TN

Started at South Ops | January 2022

Favorite type of weather | Sunny and dry with a high of 55°F

Current Projects

- Data analysis
- Data visualization
- Archiving

What got you interested in fire weather?

I love the variety of different types of weather and trying to predict how it will change.

What are some of your hobbies?

I love hiking!

Fun fact about Isaiah

I've never actually been to California but I want to visit one day!

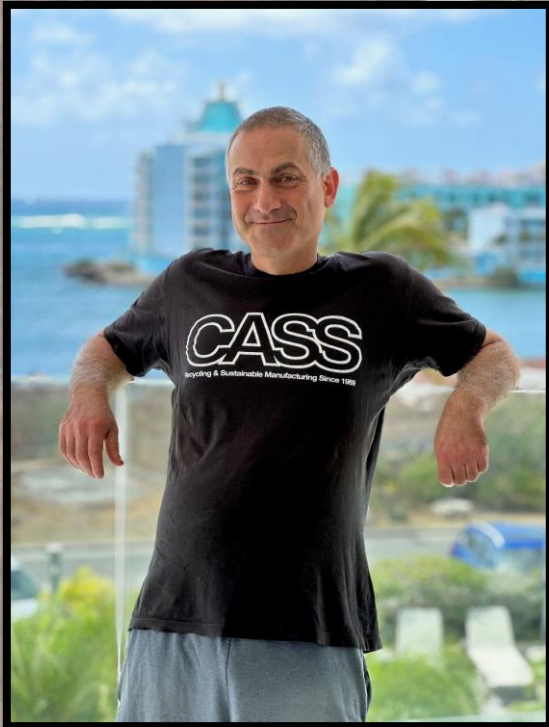


Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Matt Shameson

Meteorologist



Hometown | Belmont, CA

Started at South Ops | August 2000

Favorite type of weather | Thunderstorms

Current Project

- Lead database manager

What got you interested in fire weather?

I've enjoyed weather ever since I was a little kid and would always want to see the first drops of rain fall out of the sky. For fire weather, I enjoy recreating in the forests so I want to help reduce forest fires.

What are some of your hobbies?

Stamp and coin collecting

Fun fact about Matt

I hike 6 days a week (~7 miles on days off and 2 miles on work days)



Meet the Met Team

South Ops GACC

Kristen Stewart

Meteorologist



Hometown | Weston, MA

Started at South Ops | June 2023

Favorite type of weather | Hot summer days with an afternoon thunderstorm

Current Projects

- Improving/expanding communication of weather and fuels information
- Creating educational materials

What got you interested in fire weather?

The science behind weather has always fascinated me and I always wanted to study it. Fire weather is an impactful component where I want to contribute to the protection of our planet and the public.

What are some of your hobbies?

Watching game shows, exercising, wine tasting

Fun fact about Kristen

While in high school I performed in an orchestra that toured across Europe for 2 weeks

