

# DisasterAWARE Pro® USER GUIDE

2025 • Version 9

[disasteraware.pdc.org](https://disasteraware.pdc.org)

© 2025 Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) - All rights reserved.

## **AUTHORS**

**Michael Chatman**

Senior Disaster Services Applications Specialist  
Pacific Disaster Center

**Chani Goering**

Communications and Outreach Specialist  
Pacific Disaster Center

# REVISION HISTORY

Access the latest DisasterAWARE release notes here: <http://pdc.org/releasenotes>

Date of Release	Version	Details
August 2016	6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original Document</li> </ul>
February 2017	6.0.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of Offline Mode</li> </ul>
April 2017	6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates to Exporting Maps, Activating DisasterAWARE Alert Services, and Module 2: Administrative Functions sections</li> <li>Minor text and image updates</li> </ul>
August 2017	6.2.0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to User Admin panel account and password management</li> <li>Expanded animation features and reorganized Layers panel</li> </ul>
February 2018	6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates to .csv export feature and restrictions for the Identify Reports</li> <li>Addition of Symbol Libraries to Draw Tools</li> <li>New time stamp functionality for Product folders</li> </ul>
November 2018	6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New "About DisasterAWARE®" section</li> <li>"DisasterAWARE Alert Service" rebranded as "Smart Alert™"</li> <li>Added Smart Alert option under User panel, including the option to set alert severity thresholds for each Hazard type</li> <li>Included option to add Smart Alert Area to a Hazard, as well as enhanced alerting based on user-defined alert areas and Hazard exposure</li> <li>Enhancements to Bookmark feature (edit mode, copy, add/edit figures and folders)</li> <li>New Action Menu button design</li> </ul>
April 2019	6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Login screen</li> <li>Access Favorite and Recent layers</li> <li>TV and Social Media panels removed</li> <li>Hazard More Info tab and Hazard Brief now available</li> </ul>
December 2019	6.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion feature removed from Hazards and User panel</li> </ul>
May 2020	6.6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Login: Updated look and now includes Multi-language support</li> <li>Smart Alert™: Has been added to the main menu and allows users to set the same severity filter for all hazards at once</li> <li>Asset Tracking: Import user assets into Smart Alert for enhanced alerting and situational awareness</li> <li>Media panel: Access hundreds of media reports from around the world</li> <li>Layer File Import: Can save imported layers to the cloud for continued access and Bookmark for sharing with other users</li> <li>Google Street View: Temporarily removed</li> <li>Layers panel: Can remove layers from User Layers folder</li> </ul>
August 2020	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet Explorer removed from list of supported browsers.</li> <li>Offline Mode removed pending further enhancements.</li> <li>Hide Layers: New option to 'Reset All Hidden Layers'.</li> <li>Google Street View: Available again.</li> <li>User Panel: 'System of Measurement' option removed.</li> </ul>
March 2021	6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added section on new map printing capabilities.</li> <li>Asset tracking buffer radius changes.</li> <li>Help guide and resource links updates.</li> </ul>
August 2021	6.8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added section for new Event Brief functionality.</li> <li>Updated live cameras section to cover new capabilities.</li> <li>Updated section about Products to include new refresh option.</li> </ul>
November 2021	7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action menu was relocated.</li> <li>Forgot password experience was enhanced.</li> <li>Hazard icon symbols, color coding, and shapes were overhauled.</li> <li>Reset preferences option overwrites user's custom preferences and reverts to default organizational preferences.</li> <li>New default DisasterAWARE theme and other theme options.</li> </ul>
December 2023	7.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area Brief is no longer included.</li> <li>Updated supported browsers.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated branding for Nasa-PDC global floods and Landslides hazards.</li> <li>• Updated Hazard coverage and minimum thresholds list.</li> </ul>
April 2024	8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added Smart Alert notifications for individual assets.</li> <li>• Added asset exposure reports for hazards and email notifications.</li> <li>• Default settings can now be set by select organization and sub-organization-level administrators to enable more focused and relevant default Smart Alert areas and filters, asset monitoring and alerting, and selection of user preferences.</li> <li>• Users can now verify their assigned organization and / or sub-organization in the User panel under the Account tab.</li> <li>• New “Draw Geographic Area Filter” added to the Hazards filter options in the Hazard panel.</li> </ul>
June 2024	8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDC Active Hazards layer is now a folder, with separate layers within for each hazard type. These are further categorized into the following subfolders: “Natural Hazards” and “Man Made Hazards”.</li> <li>• PDC Active Hazard layer filters can now be bookmarked.</li> </ul>
October 2024	8.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalog option (under Import Layers) removed.</li> <li>• Organization and sub-organization admins may now set default bookmarks.</li> </ul>
March 2025	8.6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive Smart Alerts using your current location.</li> <li>• Smart Alert SMS option available for U.S. phone numbers.</li> <li>• Layer accessibility enhancements and streamlining.</li> </ul>
April 2025	9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Smart Alert mobile notifications via the Disaster Alert app.</li> <li>• Enhanced data visualization and optimized loading of map features.</li> <li>• New and expanded background layers.</li> <li>• Removed the outline display option for Annotations in Drawings.</li> <li>• Improvements to the display of hazard clusters on the map.</li> <li>• New Street View functionality (e.g. animation and expanded content)</li> <li>• Enhanced MGRS coordinates display, including the display of Media hotspots</li> <li>• “User Layers” folder renamed to “My Layers”</li> </ul>

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GETTING STARTED .....</b>	<b>3</b>
System Requirements .....	3
User access and logging in .....	4
Map navigation basics .....	6
Receive early warning with Smart Alert™ .....	12
Account, language, and time zone preferences .....	22
<b>MONITOR MULTIPLE HAZARDS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Hazard types, symbology, and meaning.....	25
Locate hazards.....	26
Advanced hazard search .....	27
Quickly access key hazard information.....	29
<b>ANTICIPATE HAZARD IMPACTS WITH EVENT BRIEF .....</b>	<b>36</b>
How to access Event Brief.....	37
Filter results by country .....	37
Hazard Exposure tab.....	38
Risk Profile tab.....	39
Live Cameras tab .....	42
Organizations & Activities tab .....	42
Supplemental information (weather, news) .....	43
Event Brief Triggers.....	45
<b>DATA LAYERS TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING.....</b>	<b>46</b>
Explore data layers .....	46
Layer properties and data sources.....	48
Access country-specific layers.....	52
View risk and vulnerability layers .....	53
View historical hazard layers .....	55
Identify tool .....	58
Bookmark frequently used layers .....	60
Favorite and recent layers.....	62
<b>CREATE CUSTOM MAPS .....</b>	<b>64</b>
Change your default background map.....	64
Import and share your own data layers .....	65
Combine layers for more informed decision making.....	67
Add drawings, text, and images to maps .....	67
Print maps.....	75
<b>BOOKMARK AND SHARE INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>78</b>
Bookmark and share your drawings .....	78
Edit bookmarks .....	79
Share your products in DisasterAWARE .....	81
<b>CUSTOMIZE YOUR WORKSPACE .....</b>	<b>82</b>
Customize your default map view.....	82
Customize your layers list .....	83
<b>ADVANCED MONITORING TOOLS AND CAPABILITIES .....</b>	<b>84</b>

Monitor and protect the safety of your assets .....	84
Live cameras.....	91
Media hot spots.....	94
<b>SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>96</b>
Add products to an existing hazard .....	96
Organize products into folders.....	98
Edit a product.....	100
Create a hazard .....	102
Define a Smart Alert area for hazards .....	104
Edit a Hazard .....	105
Organization and Sub-Organization Administrator Functions.....	106
<b>TROUBLESHOOTING AND HELP .....</b>	<b>111</b>
Accessing help documents and links .....	111
Troubleshooting .....	112
<b>APPENDIX.....</b>	<b>114</b>
Minimum thresholds for hazards displayed in the system.....	114

# GETTING STARTED

**DisasterAWARE®** is the most powerful and reliable early warning and multi-hazard monitoring platform. It is used by thousands of the most demanding government customers and humanitarian assistance organizations around the globe. It supports disaster risk reduction and best practices throughout all phases of disaster management—providing early warning, multi-hazard monitoring, modeled impact assessments, and the largest collection of scientifically verified geospatial data. DisasterAWARE powers customized software solutions for multiple countries around the world, as well as our **free mobile app for public use, Disaster Alert™**.

This section introduces you to key system requirements and features necessary to get you started in DisasterAWARE. Some of these features are described in more detail in this guide.

## System Requirements

### Supported browsers

DisasterAWARE is supported on the following browsers:



Google Chrome  
version 51+



Mozilla Firefox  
version 47+



Safari  
version 9+

### Internet or mobile connection speed

For optimal performance, we strongly recommend you have broadband internet with at least 4 Mbps connection speed, or a 4G mobile data connection to use DisasterAWARE.

### Desktop monitor size

Desktop computers must have at least a 1024 x 768 resolution monitor to successfully operate the software. We recommend a 1920 x 1200 monitor to ensure the best experience.

### Add pdc.org as a trusted site

Please be sure to whitelist \*.pdc.org as a trusted site in your organization's firewall rules.

### Configure and optimize your browser

- **Turn on cookies.** PDC uses cookies for session management so please turn on browser cookies. Cookies are typically on by default.
- **Allow PDC pop-ups.** Be sure to enable pop-up windows when using DisasterAWARE as many of the features and functions of the system are provided this way.
- **Check your browser zoom settings.** Be sure your browser zoom settings are reset to 100%. If the browser window is zoomed in or out, it may result in an optimized screen view with fewer features. Press "Ctrl + 0" keys (or "Cmd + 0" on a Mac) to reset your browser's zoom settings.



# User access and logging in

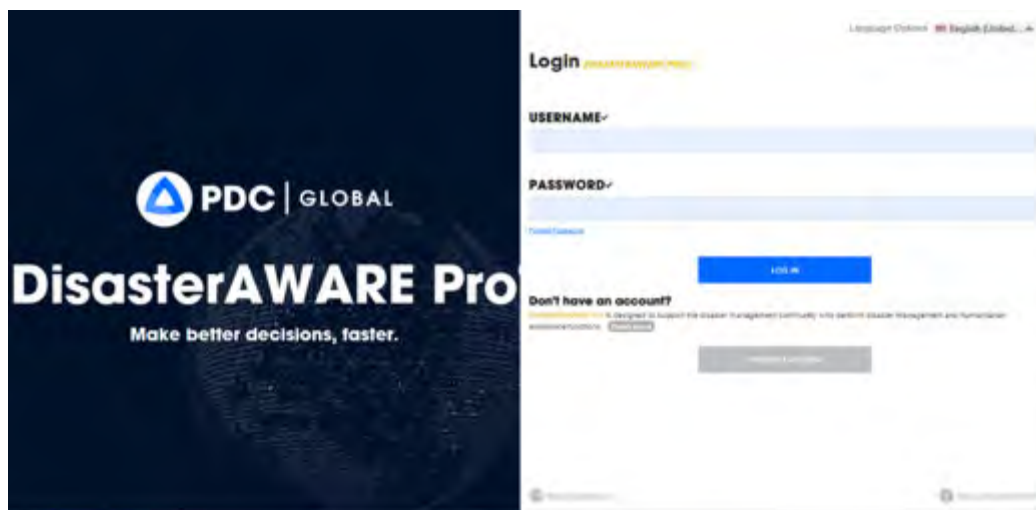
## Who can access DisasterAWARE?

DisasterAWARE® is free for disaster management practitioners, government agencies, and humanitarian assistance organizations supporting local, state, federal, regional, and international disaster management and risk reduction objectives. Access to the system is restricted to these groups to ensure uninterrupted system stability and availability to critical information supporting public safety in times of disaster.

A free public version of the software is available at [disasteralert.pdc.org](https://disasteralert.pdc.org), or by downloading the mobile Disaster Alert app on iTunes or the Google Play Store.

## How to request access

Visit [disasteraware.pdc.org](https://disasteraware.pdc.org). Click the **Request Access** link and complete the registration form. You will receive confirmation within 24 business hours of your request.



**Who can access DisasterAWARE Pro**

DisasterAWARE Pro is for the disaster management community only, which includes government agencies and humanitarian assistance organizations serving at local, state, federal, and regional levels. This is to ensure disaster managers and first responders always have uninterrupted access to critical information supporting public safety in times of disasters.

**ABOUT YOU**

First name \*

Last name \*

Prefix / Title / Rank

Your business email \*

Your phone number \*



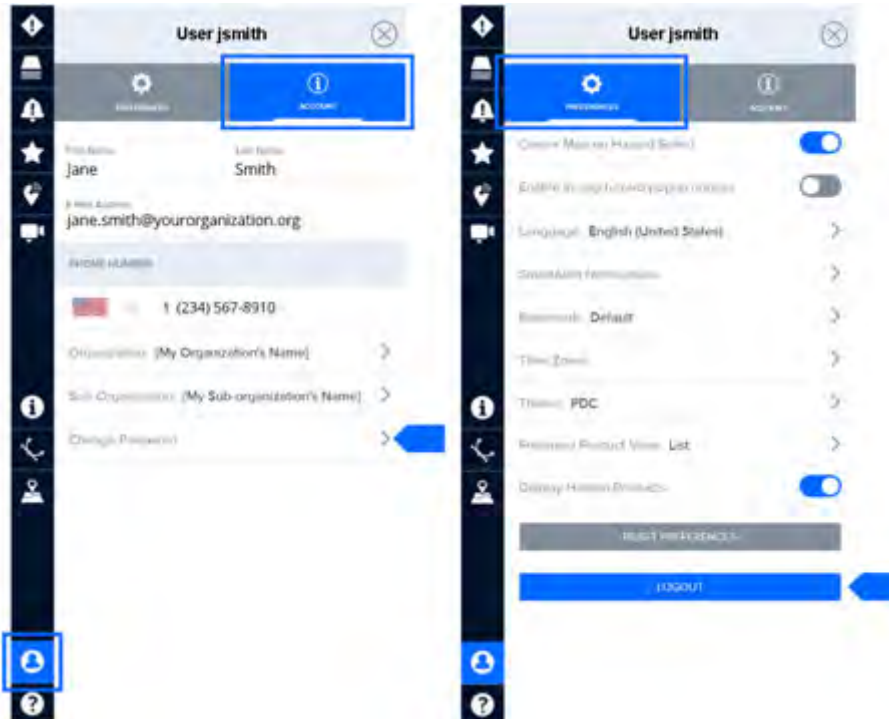
## How to log into DisasterAWARE

Once access is approved, visit the link provided in your confirmation email and login with the username and temporary password assigned. Please take a moment to change your password.

### Reset password



To change your password, click the **User** icon from the left toolbar and then click **Account > Change Password**. To logout, go to the **Preferences** tab in the **User** panel and click **Logout**.



### Trouble logging in?

If you are having trouble logging in, visit the login page and try the "Forgot Password" link. A temporary password will be sent to the email associated with your account. If you still need assistance, contact us at: [disaster@pdc.org](mailto:disaster@pdc.org).



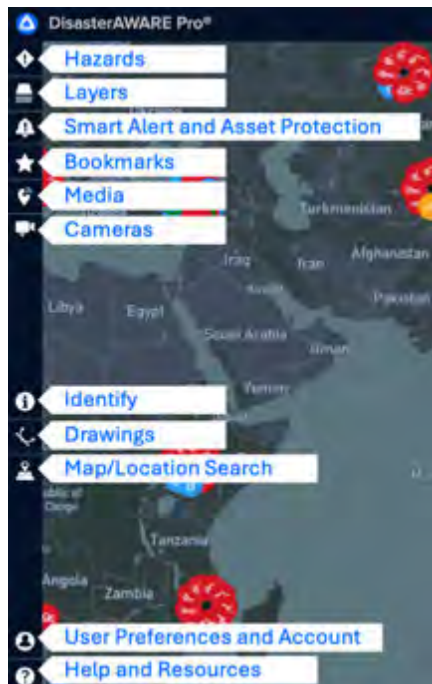
## Map navigation basics

DisasterAWARE allows you to monitor hazards around the globe and to quickly assess potential threats to people, property, or critical assets at any time. Below is an illustration highlighting key elements of the system and where to find them. Please note, if you do not see the left toolbar, you may need to adjust your browser's zoom setting - see below.



## Main toolbar

Along the left side of screen, is the main toolbar which provides access to the core features of DisasterAWARE.



## Zooming the map

You may zoom in or out on the map using the toolbar on the right of the screen.



Be sure your browser zoom settings are reset to 100%. If the browser window is zoomed in too far, it will automatically optimize your view to function similar to a mobile device (see section below on mobile navigation). Press “Ctrl + 0” keys (or “Cmd + 0” on a Mac) to reset your browser’s zoom settings.

Click the “+” and “-” options in the right toolbar. Do not use “Ctrl +” or “Ctrl -” key commands as these will zoom your whole browser, which performs best at 100%.



You may also zoom in and out by either scrolling on your trackpad or the scroller on your mouse.



You can zoom to an area of interest by double clicking that location on the map.

**Zoom selector:** Click and drag to select a rectangular area in which to zoom.



## Panning the map

When selected, you can click + hold and drag the mouse to pan the map.



**Home position:** Use the home button to return to your default map and zoom position.

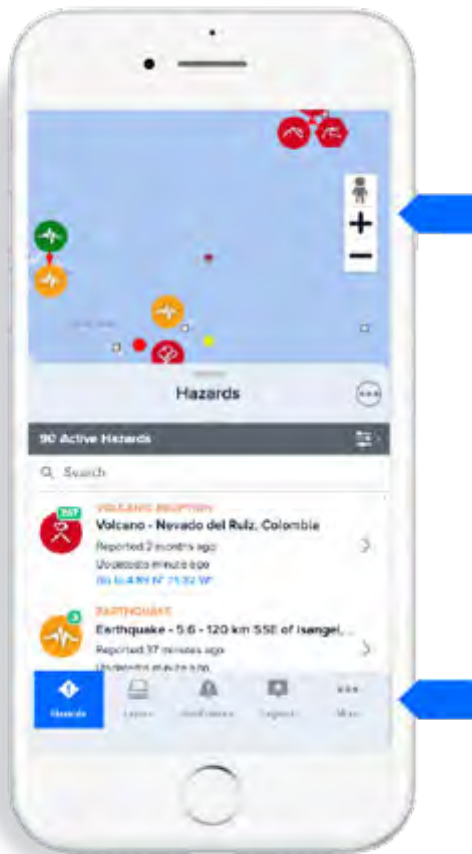


**Undo or redo:** to return to previous zoom positions.



## Mobile navigation

On mobile devices, the toolbar menu is located at the bottom of the screen and provides access to the core features of DisasterAWARE.



### Mobile scrolling / panning

While on a mobile device, swipe left or right, or up and down using your fingers to scroll / pan the map.



### Mobile zooming

While on a mobile device, pinch open or pinch close to zoom in or out on the map.

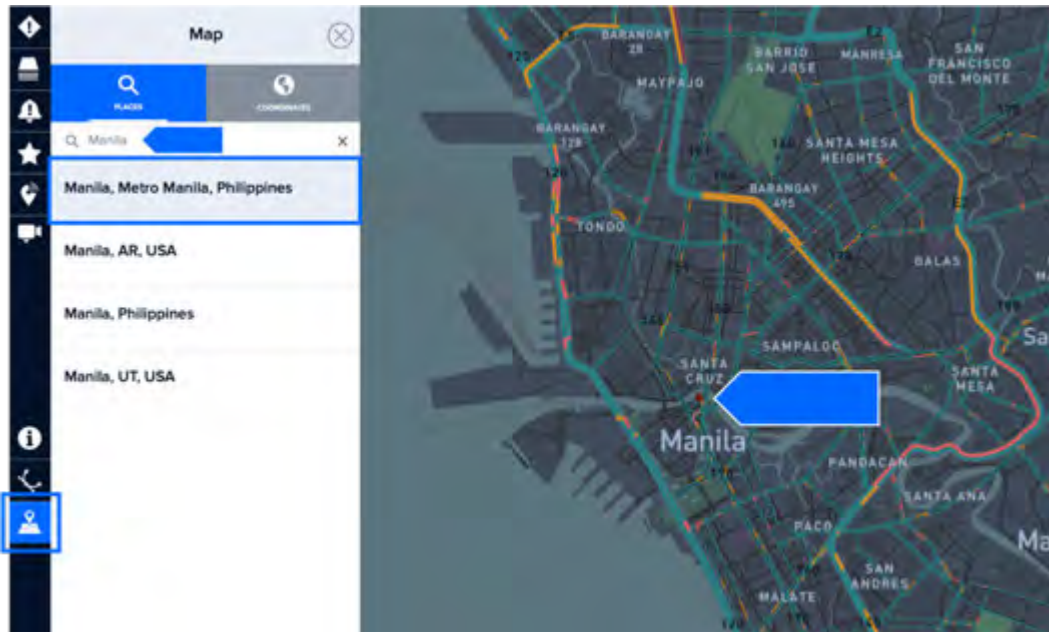


## Map location search

You can search for locations on the map using the **Map location search** tool.



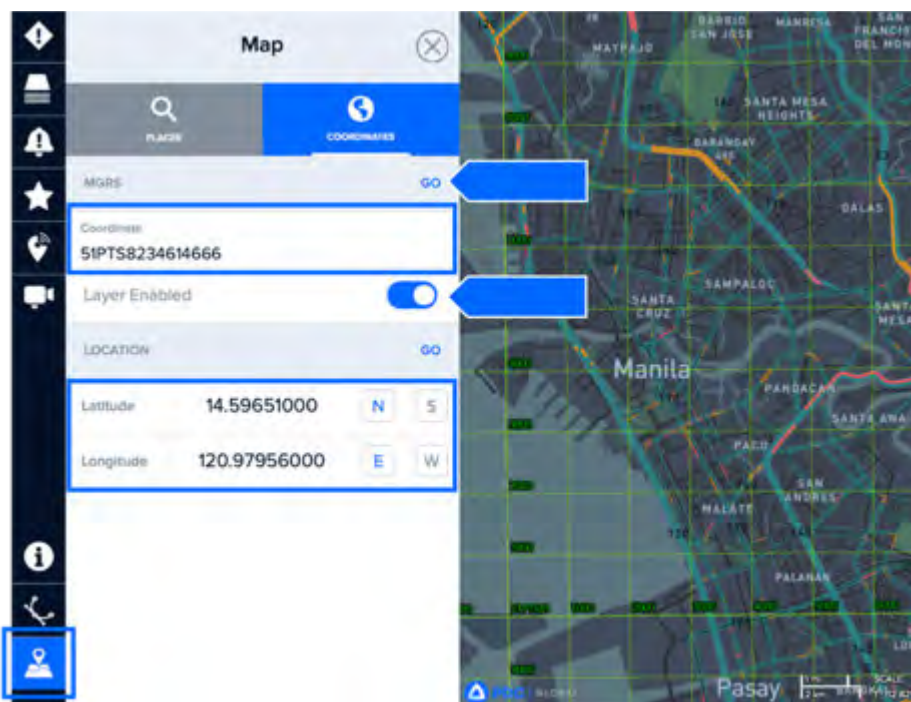
Click the **Map location search** tool from the left toolbar. Enter the name of a location into the search bar and select one of the matching results. Once selected, the map will zoom to that location.



## Find locations by coordinates



While in the **Map** panel, you can also click the **Coordinates** tab find a location by either latitude and longitude, or MGRS coordinates (field is case sensitive).





## Overview Map

In the bottom of the right-hand corner is an **Overview Map** that depicts the current zoom extent in relation to the surrounding geographic region. You can minimize (hide) or maximize (expand) this feature.



## Street View



Click the **Street View** icon on the top of the right toolbar and drag it to a location of interest on the map. While hovering over the map, areas where Street View is available will be highlighted in green. The circle below the street view icon will turn green when located above available street view images or video. Note: You may need to zoom the map further in towards the street level to activate Street View.



Street View will appear in the **Overview Map**, and navigation is done via directional controls available in the Overview Map.



Click the **Full Screen** button in the Overview Map to view Street View in full screen mode in the main map area.



Click the globe icon (top-right corner) to close Street View.





## Receive early warning with Smart Alert™



Get early warning alerts for potential disasters happening anywhere around the globe and respond more quickly to hazards threatening the populations and assets in places you care about.

**Note:** Each user is assigned to an organization and sub-organization. This system facilitates the management of default settings and preferences tailored to each organization and sub-organization, ensuring a focused and customized user experience. However, you can change or customize those options at any time.

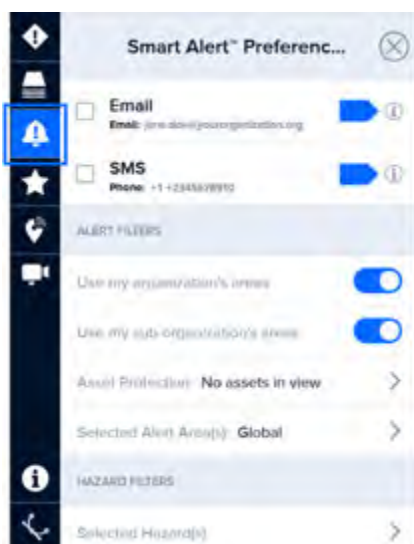
To view your organization and or sub-organization, go to **User > Account**.



Some organizations and sub-organization administrators may choose to set default Smart Alert preferences, such as Alert Areas and Hazard filters, for accounts associated with their organization and sub-organization.

**New user accounts** will automatically be assigned the default preferences defined by their organization or suborganization administrator. However, **any user account, whether new or old**, can choose to either use their organization's and or sub-organization's default settings or turn them off / customize them at any time.

See below for further details on managing your Smart Alert settings:

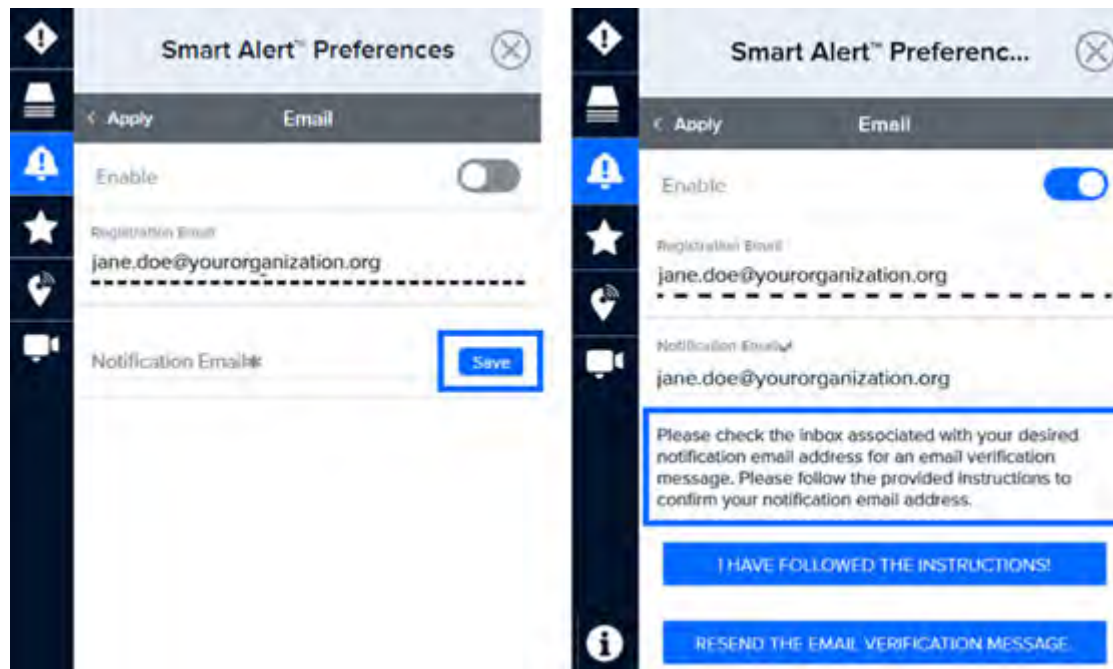


## Setup email alerts



Click the **Smart Alert** icon from the left toolbar. While in the **Smart Alert Preferences** panel, check the box alongside **Email**. Then select the **info** (i) button to its right.

Under **Notification Email**, enter the email address for which you'd like to receive alerts. This can be the same or different than your account registration email. Click **Save** to save your notification email address.

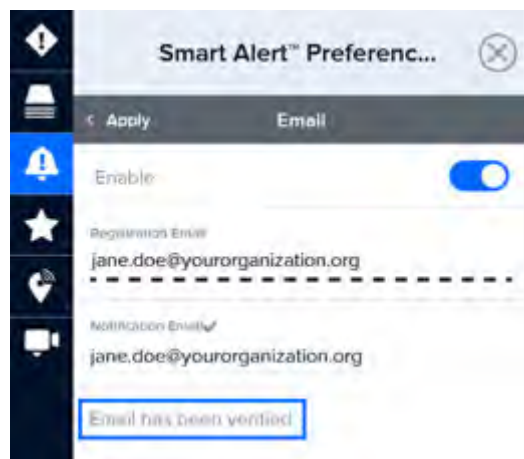


A verification email will be sent to the address you entered. Follow the instructions in the email and return to the **Smart Alert Preferences** panel. Select the '**I Have Followed the Instructions**' option.

You will now see an **Email has been verified** status as shown below.

### PRO TIP

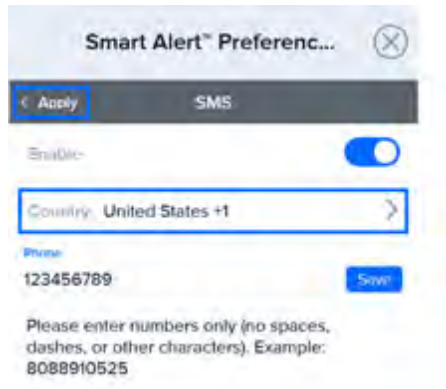
Have a watch office or want to alert your entire operations center? Enter your group email account in the form. Be sure to notify members of your group that they've been added to receive alerts and who to contact within your organization to be taken off the group list.



## Receive SMS text message notifications (available for U.S. phone numbers only)

**Note:** Due to carrier limitations and related restrictions, the SMS option is only available for users with a U.S. phone number. **If you do not see the SMS option**, follow the steps in the *Get Smart Alerts on your mobile device* section of this user guide to setup Smart Alert notifications on your mobile device. You can also access the online tutorial here: <https://www.pdc.org/mobile-alerts/>

Select **Enable** and enter your phone number in the **Phone** field (no spaces, dashes, or other characters). Then, click the **Send a Test Message** button to confirm a successful SMS sign up and then select **Done**.



## Get Smart Alerts on your mobile device **(BETA feature)**

Receive hazard notifications and access the full power of DisasterAWARE on your mobile device. Users of DisasterAWARE, including all custom versions, can utilize the full suite of DisasterAWARE features on their mobile devices by downloading the Disaster Alert app.

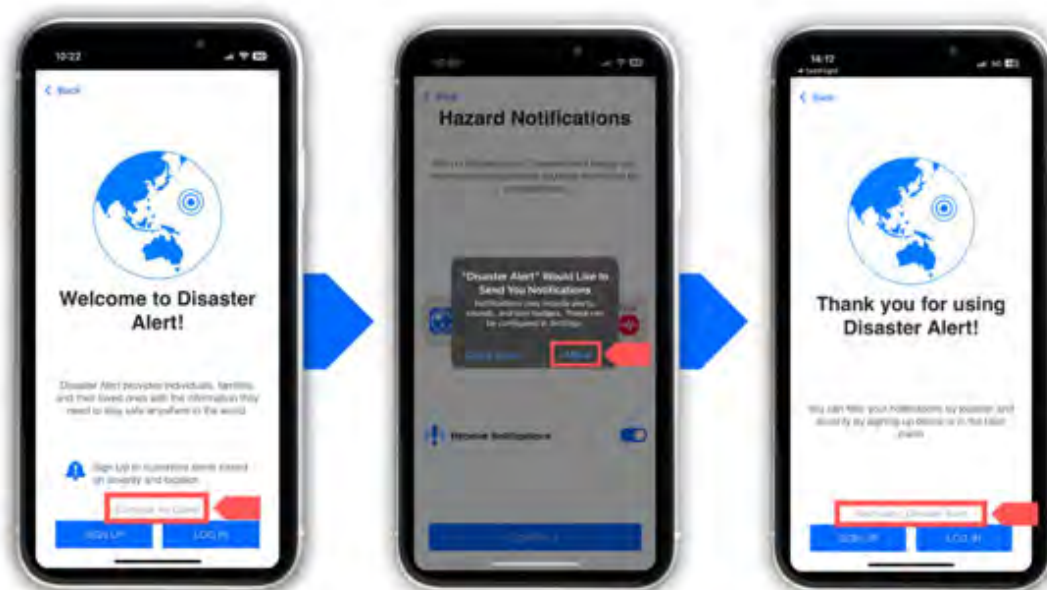
- **Download PDC's free Disaster Alert mobile app**, available on [Google Play](#) and the [iOS App Store](#)
- **Next, watch this quick tutorial** to connect the app to your DisasterAWARE account and setup your mobile notifications: [www.pdc.org/mobile-alerts](http://www.pdc.org/mobile-alerts)

The following are key steps of particular importance that you must complete to ensure a successful setup of mobile Smart Alerts.



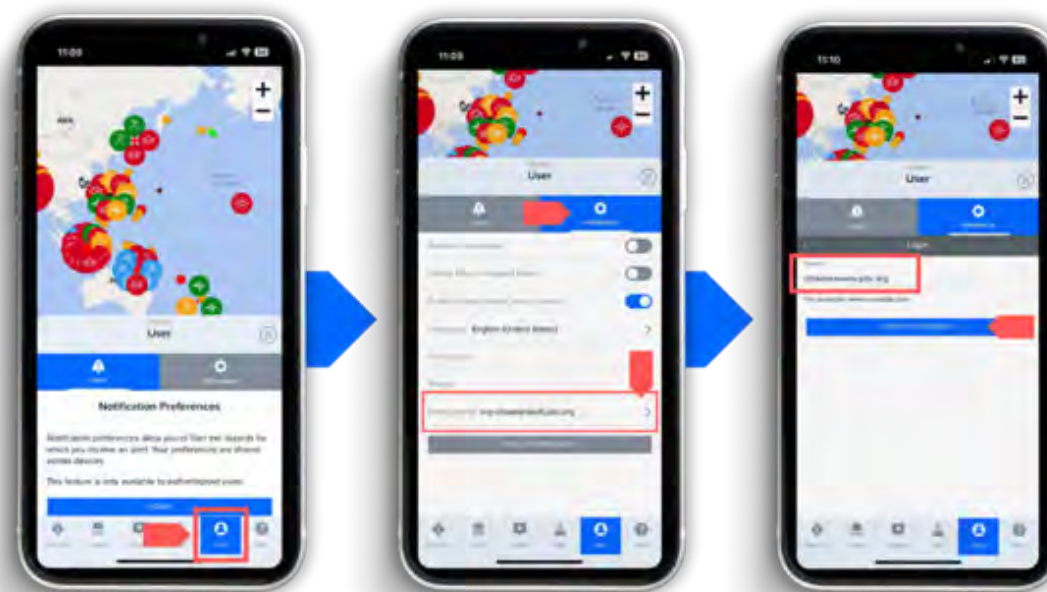
## 1. Initial setup of the Disaster Alert app:

- Select the **Continue as Guest** option (left image). **DO NOT** select the Signup or Log In options **as those are** for public users of the **Disaster Alert** app.
- Select **Allow** (center image), when prompted, “Disaster Alert would like to send you notifications.” This critical step ensures that the app has the proper permissions to send you notifications via your device. Otherwise, you will not receive alerts.
- If prompted, select the Start using Disaster Alert option (right image), to complete the initial app setup.



## 2. Connect the Disaster Alert app to your DisasterAWARE account:

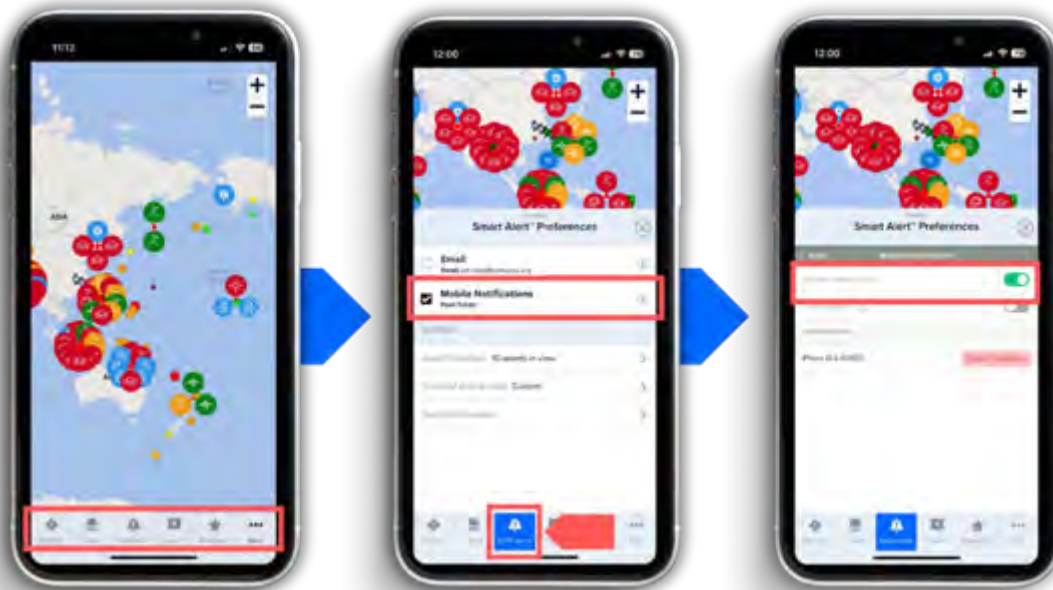
- Select the **User** feature from the bottom menu (left image).
- Click on the **Preferences** tab and select the “Deployment” option (center image).
- Under **Domain**, enter the DisasterAWARE URL (disasteraware.pdc.org) and then select Switch to Domain (right image).
- You will be redirected to the login screen for that application. Login with your DisasterAWARE credentials.





### 3. Setup your Smart Alert mobile notifications:

- First, confirm that you successfully connected the Disaster Alert mobile app to your DisasterAWARE account. You should now see the expanded DisasterAWARE toolbar at the bottom.
- Select the **Notifications** option and enable the **Mobile Notifications** option.
- Under the Mobile Notifications options, turn on **Enable mobile alerts** (switch to green).



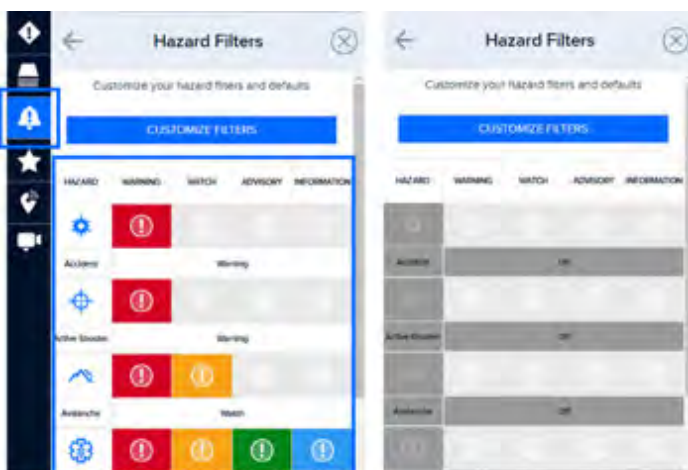
### Specify hazards and severities for alerts

You can specify the types of hazards and severities you would like to receive alerts for or choose to use the default hazard and severity settings set by your organization or sub-organization.



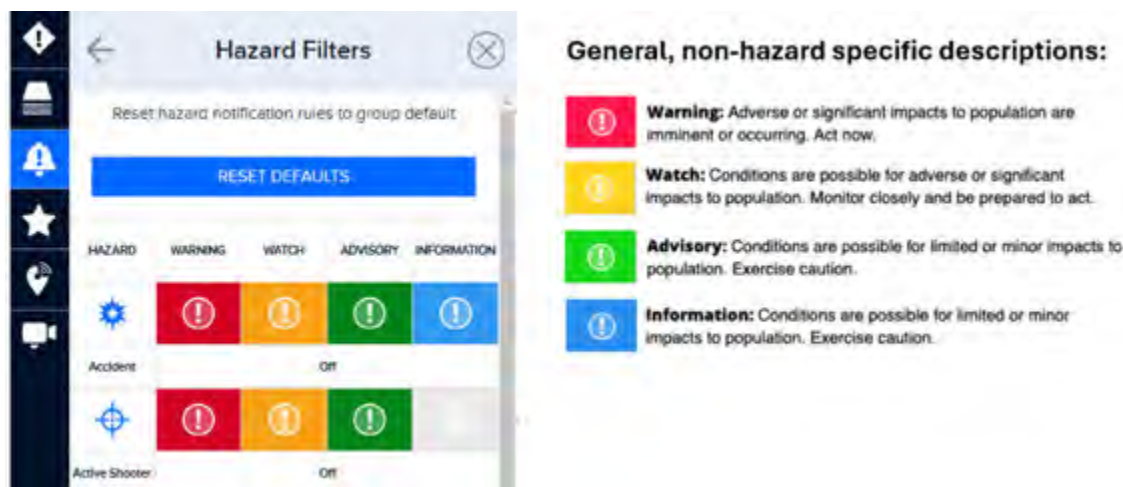
Click the **Smart Alert** icon from the left toolbar to open the **Smart Alert Preferences** panel. Click on the **Selected Hazards** link.

**If your organization/sub-organization has set default hazards and severities**, you will see those settings selected in the panel with under the option to **Customize Filters**, as shown below (left image). If they did not set any default settings, those options will be greyed out (right image).



To customize your **Hazard Filters**, select the **Customize Filters** button. The button will switch to say Reset Defaults.

Next, choose the severities for each type of hazard notification you'd like to receive. You will only receive alerts that meet or exceed your chosen severity for each hazard.



**PRO TIP**

You can click on the severity heading at the top of the **Hazard Rules** panel (Warning, Watch, Advisory, or Information) to quickly select the same severity for all hazards.

Select the **Reset Defaults** button if you wish to use your organization/sub-organization's default settings.

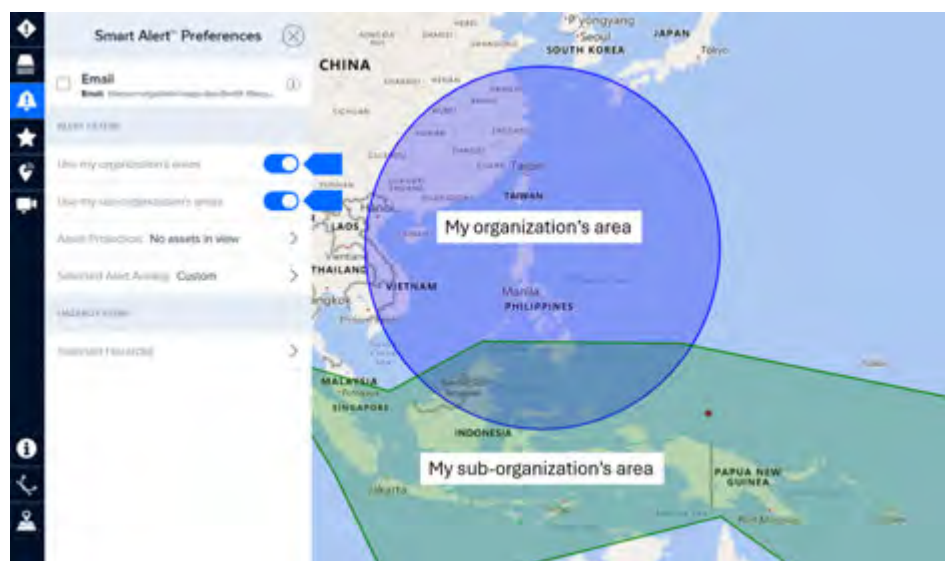
## Select geographic areas for alerts

Smart Alert allows you to further filter and focus your alerts for specific areas on the map. Unless default Smart Alert area(s) have been set by your organization/sub-organization, the default Smart Alert Area is set to **Global**.



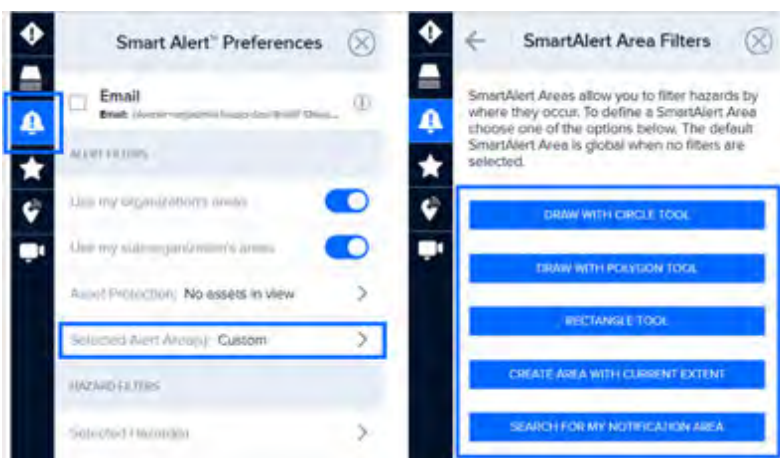
Click the **Smart Alert** icon from the left toolbar to open the **Smart Alert Preferences** panel.

If you would like to include your organization's or sub-organization's pre-defined alert areas in your **Alert Filters**, be sure to turn those options on. When on, the toggle to the right side of the panel for **User my organization's areas** and or **User my sub-organization's areas** will be to the right. Those areas will also be displayed on the map, as shown in the image below.



You can add your own Alert Area(s) by clicking on the **Selected Alert Area(s)** option.

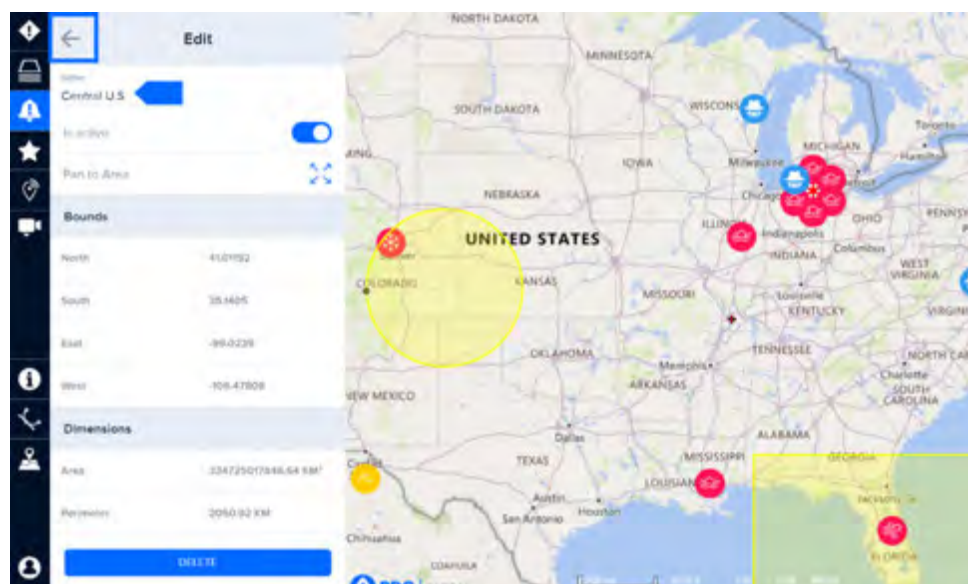
Select either the **Circle**, **Polygon**, or **Rectangle** option to draw one or more alert areas on the map. You may also define your Alert Area using your **Current Extent**, or by searching for your notification area.



If you already added a notification area or chose to include your organization or sub-organization's default area(s), you must click on the plus (+) button to access these options.



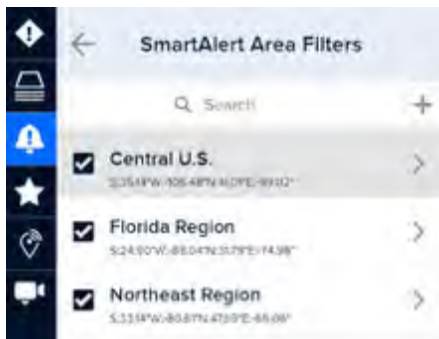
Enter a name for the area you created and click the back arrow. Names help you quickly identify a specific area when you want to make edits.



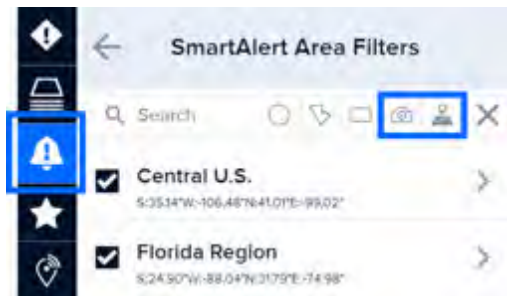


Your filtered area(s) will now appear in **Smart Alert Area Filters** panel, as well as your organization's or sub-organization's areas if you chose to include those.

You can edit or delete the alert areas you've created by clicking the arrow to the right of the item in your list.



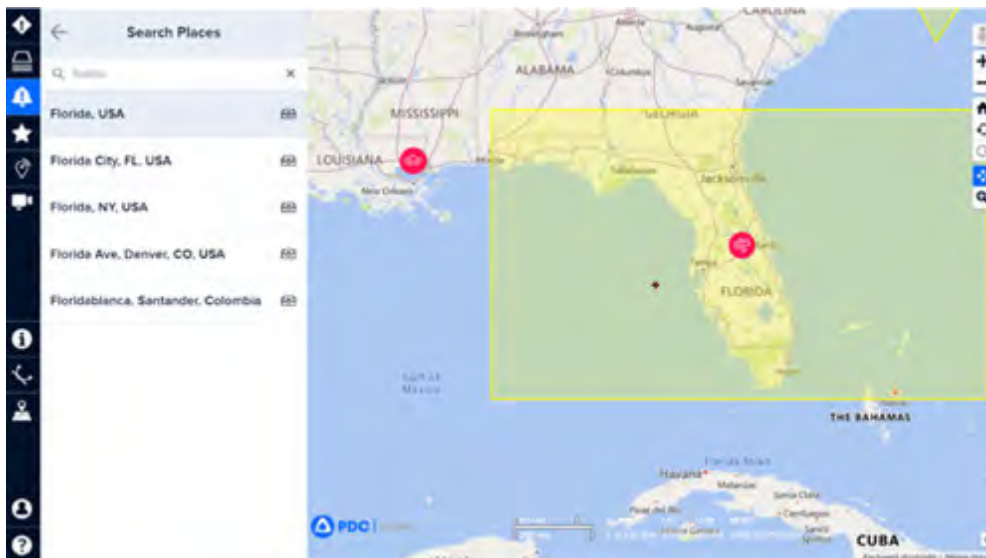
There are additional tools to help you create alert areas while in the **Smart Alert Area Filters** panel.



Click the **Camera** to create an alert area from your current zoom extent.



Click the **Map/Location** tool to help you search for a location on the map you want to outline (e.g. Florida). Learn more about this tool in the section titled *Map location search*.



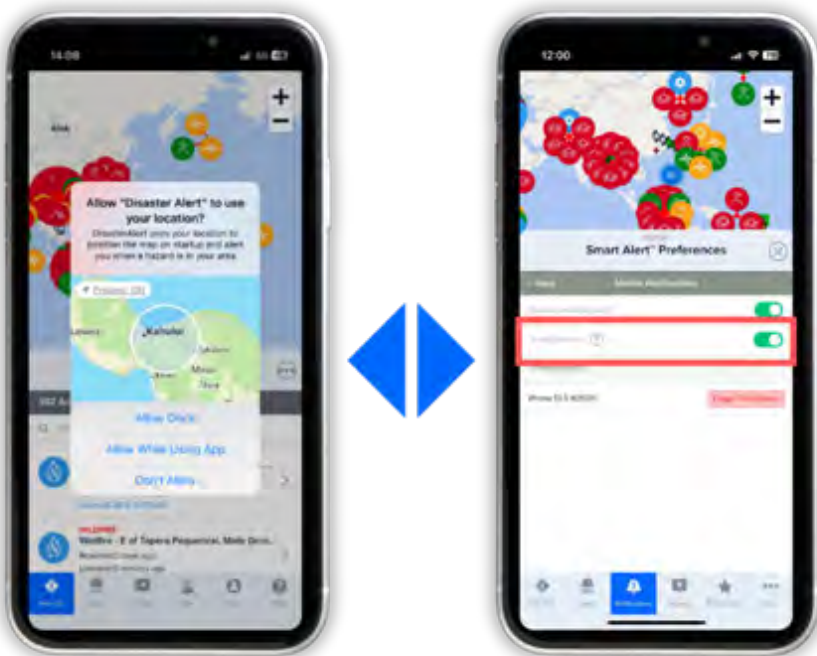
## Receive notifications based on your current location **(BETA feature)**

DisasterAWARE users now have the option to receive Smart Alerts based on their current location. To take advantage of this enhanced alerting feature, you must download PDC's free Disaster Alert app and connect it to your DisasterAWARE account.

- Download PDC's free Disaster Alert mobile app – available on [Google Play](#) and the [iOS App Store](#).
- Then watch this quick tutorial to setup in-app mobile notifications: [www.pdc.org/mobile-alerts](http://www.pdc.org/mobile-alerts)

**Following the interactive online tutorial**, you will need to complete two key steps to ensure DisasterAWARE is able to notify you of hazards threatening your current location:

1. **Allow the Disaster Alert app to use your location:** While setting up the mobile app you will be asked to allow Disaster Alert to use your location (left image).
2. **Turn on Track Device** under Smart Alert Preferences > Notifications > Mobile Notifications is active (right image).



## Monitor and protect the safety of your assets with Smart Alert

Monitor your stationary or moving assets (such as buildings, personnel, or goods in transit), and receive alerts when a hazard presents a threat. (See the section titled *Monitor and protect your assets*.)

### Hazard Notifications

Once you have subscribed to alerts, you will get updates on your mobile phone and / or email according to the preferences you've selected.

While logged into DisasterAWARE, you will also receive on-screen notifications about hazards taking place around the world. This includes new hazards as well as updates about existing hazards. These are global system notifications and are not connected to your personal Smart Alert Preferences.

To view **Hazard Notification** details, click the down arrow to expand the panel. Select a hazard from the drop-down list to view its content.



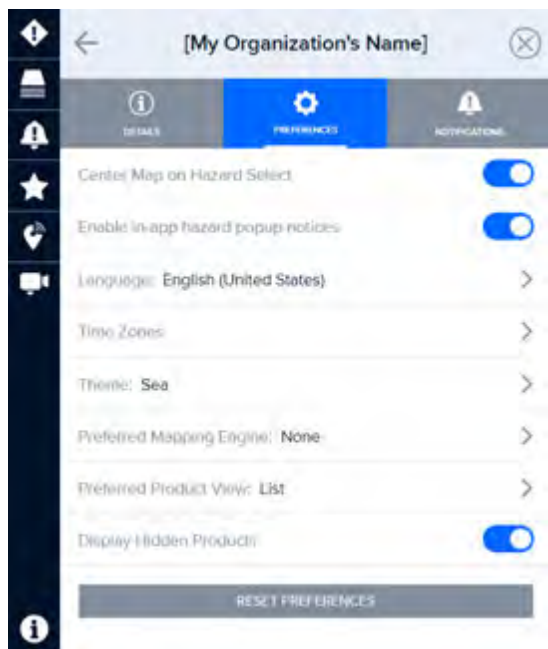
### How to unsubscribe from alerts

To unsubscribe from alerts, click the **Smart Alert** icon from the left toolbar, then simply uncheck the options for **SMS** and/or **Email**. To quickly remove alerts sent via SMS (text) messages, send a text reply with the word "STOP."

## Account, language, and time zone preferences



**Note:** Each user is assigned to an organization and suborganization. This system facilitates the management of default settings and preferences (see image below) tailored to each organization and suborganization, ensuring a focused and customized user experience. To view your organization and or sub-organization, go to **User > Preferences**.



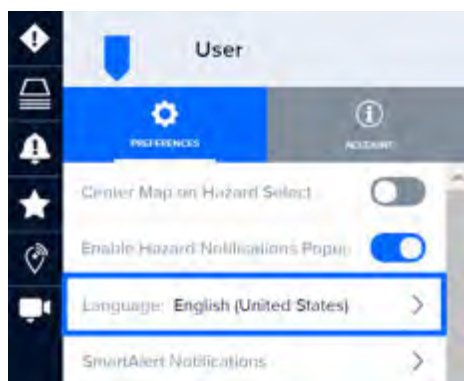
However, you can change or customize those options at any time, as well as **Reset Preferences** back to your organization or sub-organization's default settings.

### Personalize language preferences

DisasterAWARE is compatible with a variety of different languages that can be selected to personalize your experience in the system. Additional languages are planned for the future.

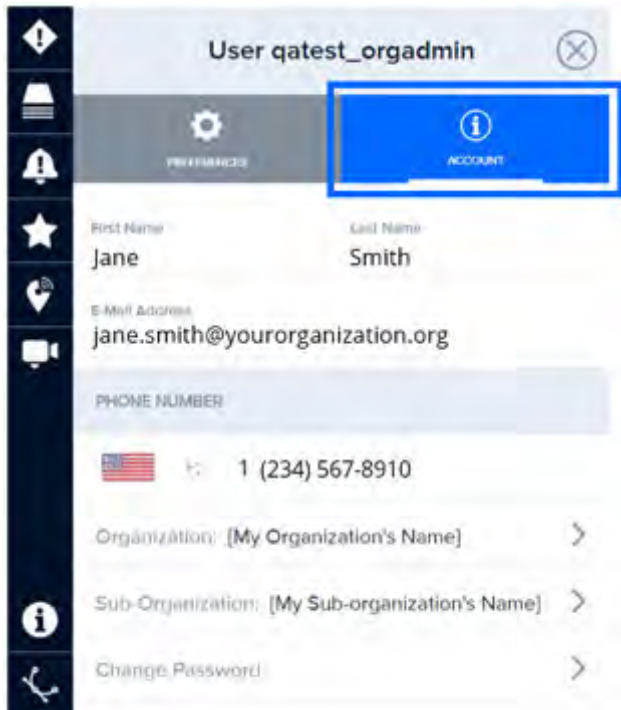


Click the **User** icon from the left toolbar. Click the Language option under the **Preferences** tab to open the **Language** panel. Select from the available languages listed and click **Apply**.



## Change or update your account email and phone number

Choose **User > Account** tab to change your account information. This information is not associated with your Smart Alert notification email or SMS (text) preferences. See the section title *Receive early warning with Smart Alert™* on how to setup or change Smart Alert preferences.



User qatest\_orgadmin

ACCOUNT

First Name: Jane

Last Name: Smith

E-Mail Address: jane.smith@yourorganization.org

PHONE NUMBER: 1 (234) 567-8910

Organization: [My Organization's Name]

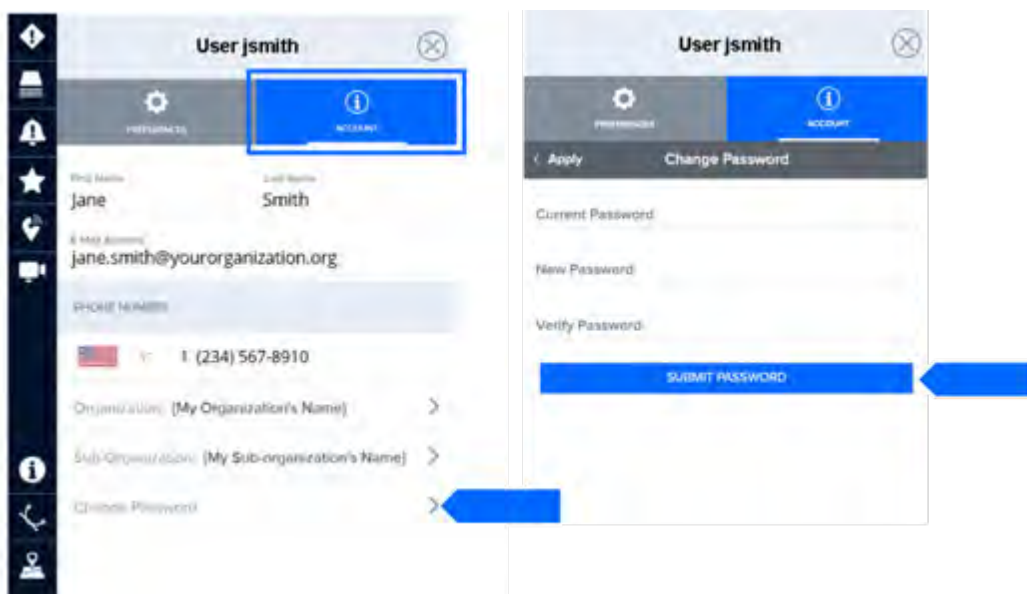
Sub-Organization: [My Sub-organization's Name]

Change Password

## Change or reset your password



Click the **User** icon from the left toolbar, followed by **Account tab > Change Password**, to change your password. Enter your current password, then enter your new password, verify your new password, and then click **Submit Password**.



User jsmith

ACCOUNT

Change Password

Current Password

New Password

Verify Password

SUBMIT PASSWORD

## View multiple time zones for areas you wish to monitor

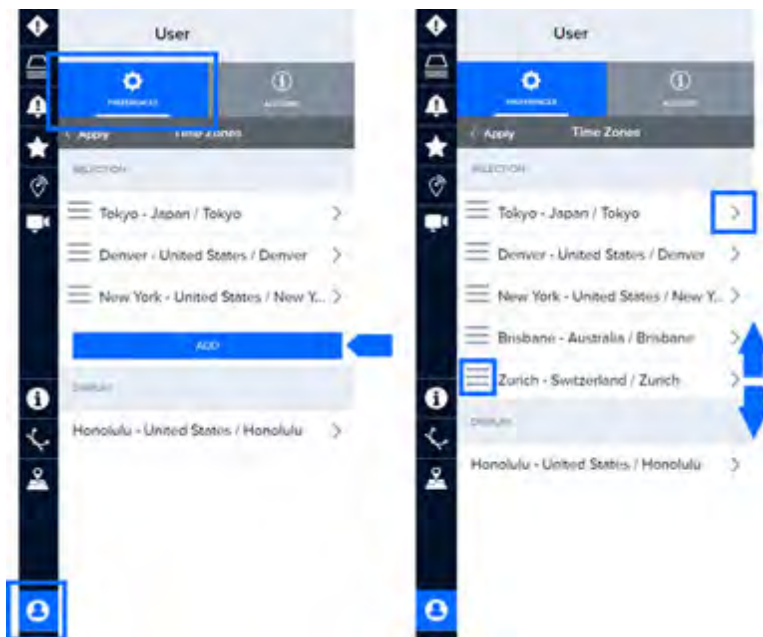
Need to monitor hazards and assets across multiple time zones? View the Time Banner at the top of the map or customize clocks to include the time zones of places you care about.



Click the **User** icon on the left toolbar, and then **Preferences > Time Zones**. You can display up to five clocks, in addition to the UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) clock. By default, Washington D.C., Honolulu, Tokyo, Sydney, and London are displayed.

To change a clock, select it from the list and click on **Location**. Select a **Country**, a **City**, then **Apply**. Click and slide the Time Zone up or down in the Time Zones list to change the order the clocks are displayed in the banner.

Should you wish to remove a clock, select it from the list and click **Delete**.



### PRO TIP

When adding or customizing a clock, you can rename it to represent a specific asset or location you're monitoring (e.g. Headquarters).

To see the current time at any hazard location around the world, click the hazard icon and one of its quick links (Products, Info, Layers, Event Brief). The UTC clock will automatically switch to the local time in that hazard's geographic location.





# MONITOR MULTIPLE HAZARDS

You can monitor multiple hazards in DisasterAWARE. Hazards are displayed in the system when an occurrence or incident poses substantial threat to people and property.

## Hazard types, symbology, and meaning

Below are some of the types of hazards for which users can receive early warning in DisasterAWARE. PDC continues to add new hazard types as reliable information becomes available.



### Geopolitical Hazards



Hazards are encoded with additional symbols and colors to indicate the type of occurrence and severity.



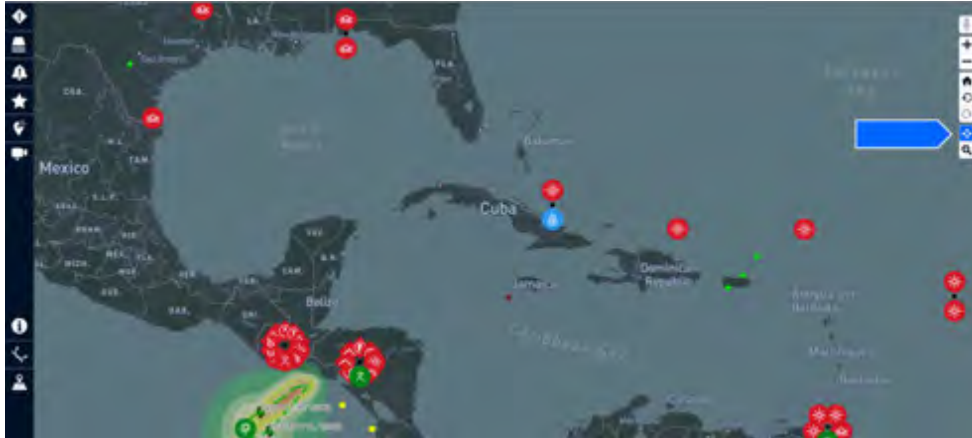


## Locate hazards

There are multiple ways to locate information about hazards in DisasterAWARE and to help you assess impacts.

### Pan and scroll the map to identify hazards

This method is commonly used and allows you to quickly locate and select a hazard directly from the map. Place your cursor over the map and then click and drag your mouse to pan the map and look for hazards. Make sure the pan tool is highlighted on the left toolbar when trying to pan the map. See the section on *Map navigation basics* for more on this.



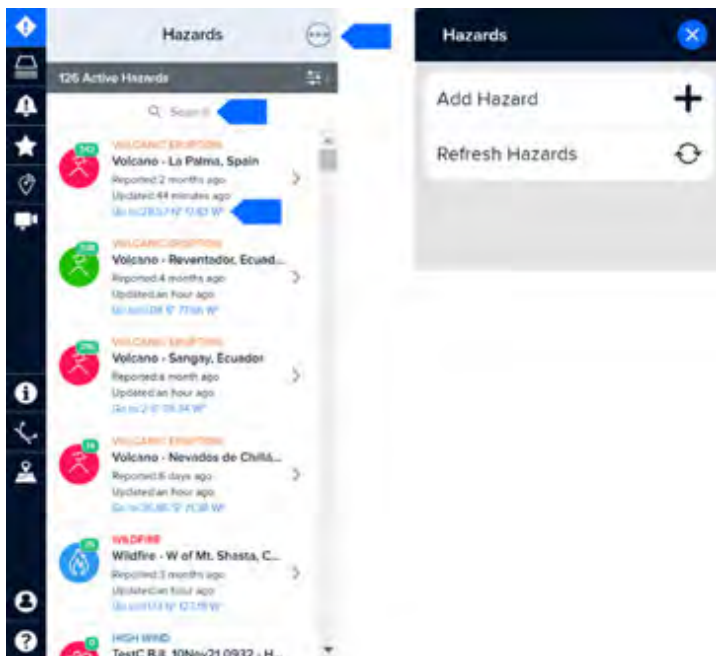
### View and search the active hazards list



Click the **Hazards** icon on the left toolbar. The **Hazards panel** will open, displaying a list of active hazards. By default, the most recently updated hazard will appear at the top of the list.



Hazards are automatically updated in the list every five minutes. You may refresh the list sooner by clicking the three dots at the top of the hazard panel and then the **Refresh Hazards** option.



Within the **Hazard panel**, use the **Search** field to quickly filter the list by keyword. You may zoom to a hazard on the map by clicking the “Go to” coordinates in the list. To learn more about hazards, their data sources, and hazard-specific layers, see the section *Data layers to support decision making*.

## Advanced hazard search

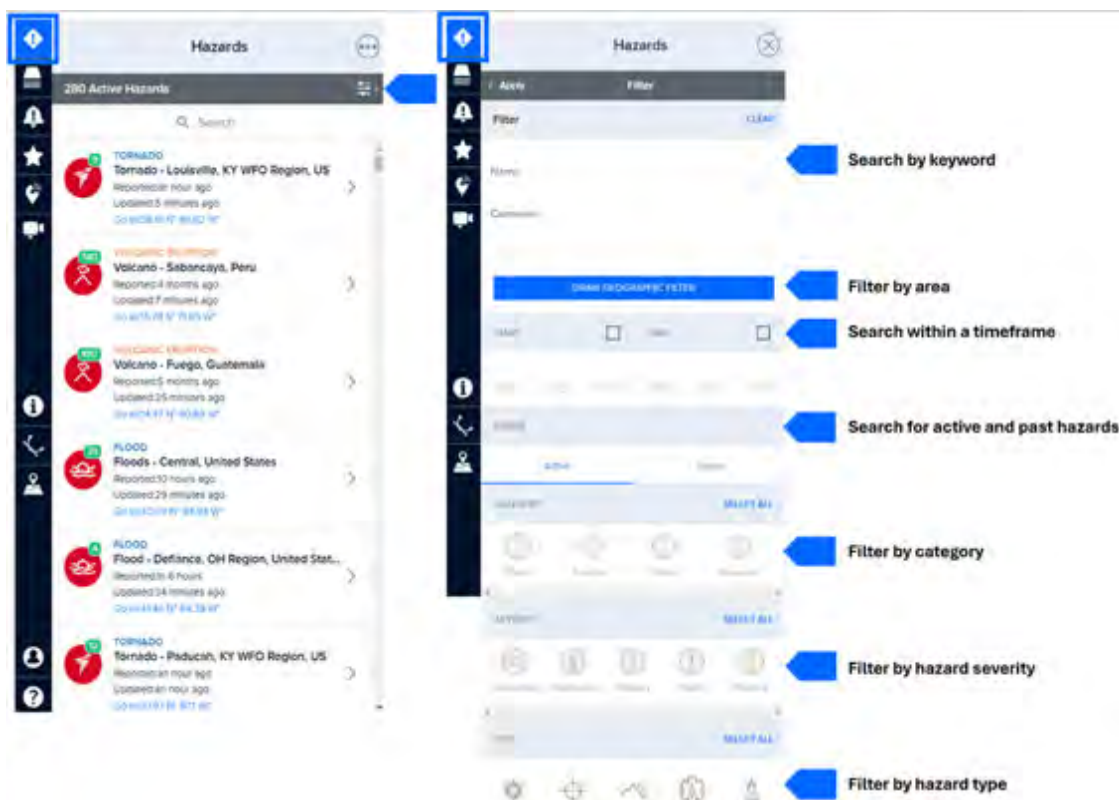
You can search for active and historical hazard information and hazard products using the **Advanced Hazard Search**. Advanced search filters include active and expired hazards, hazard types, date ranges, severities, areas, and more.



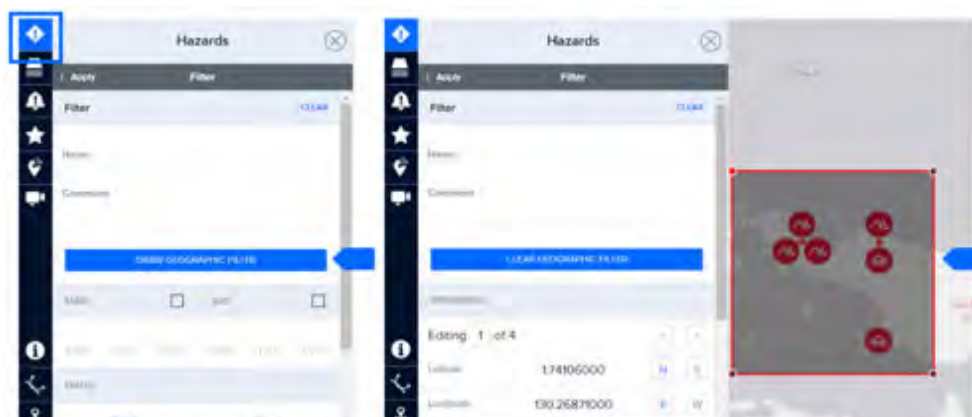
Click the **Hazard** icon on the left toolbar to open the hazards panel.



Next, click the **Filter** icon to the top right of the panel to use the **Advanced Hazard Search** feature.



To search a specific area, select the **Draw Geographic Filter** option. Then click and drag your cursor across the desired area on the map to draw a rectangle-shaped filter around the area you wish to restrict your hazard search within.



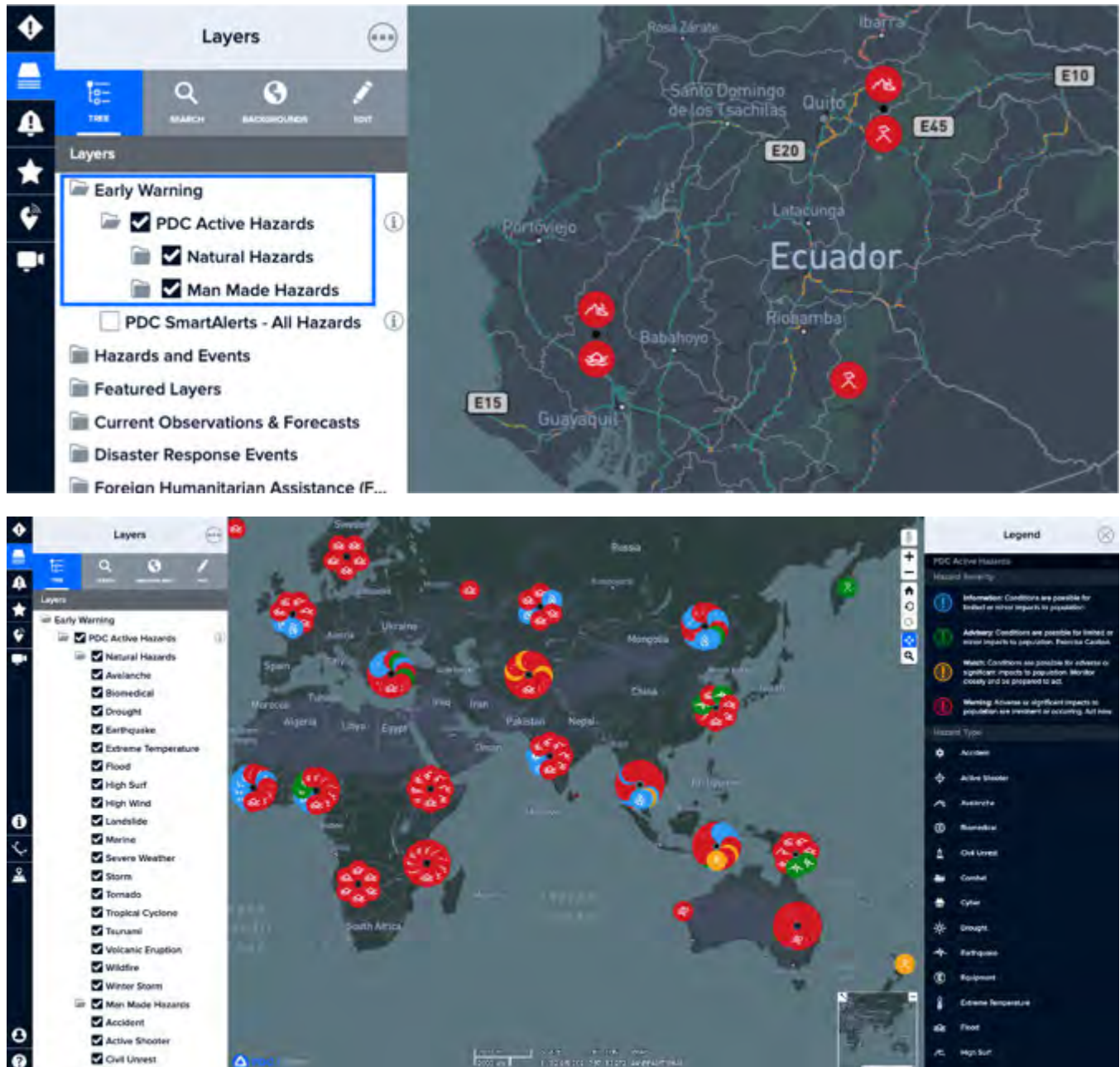
### PRO TIP

**Want to save your Advanced Hazard Search settings for later viewing?** Simply enable the PDC Active Hazard layers you wish to include, as well as apply any additional filters via the Hazard panel, and create a Bookmark. Hazard filters will be saved to that Bookmark for quick access at any time.

## Quickly filter hazards from the Layers panel

In addition to the Advanced Hazard Search features above, you may also adjust the types of hazards you see on the map through the Layers panel. Open the Layers panel and navigate to **Early Warning > PDC Active Hazards** folder. The **PDC Active Hazards** folder organizes layers into two subfolders: **Natural Hazards** and **Man Made Hazards**. Expand the folders and select individual layers within each subfolder you wish to have visible on the map (e.g. Earthquake, Man Made, Cyber, etc.).

You can also select and unselect the checkbox next to the folder's name to enable or disable all layers within that folder.





## Quickly access key hazard information

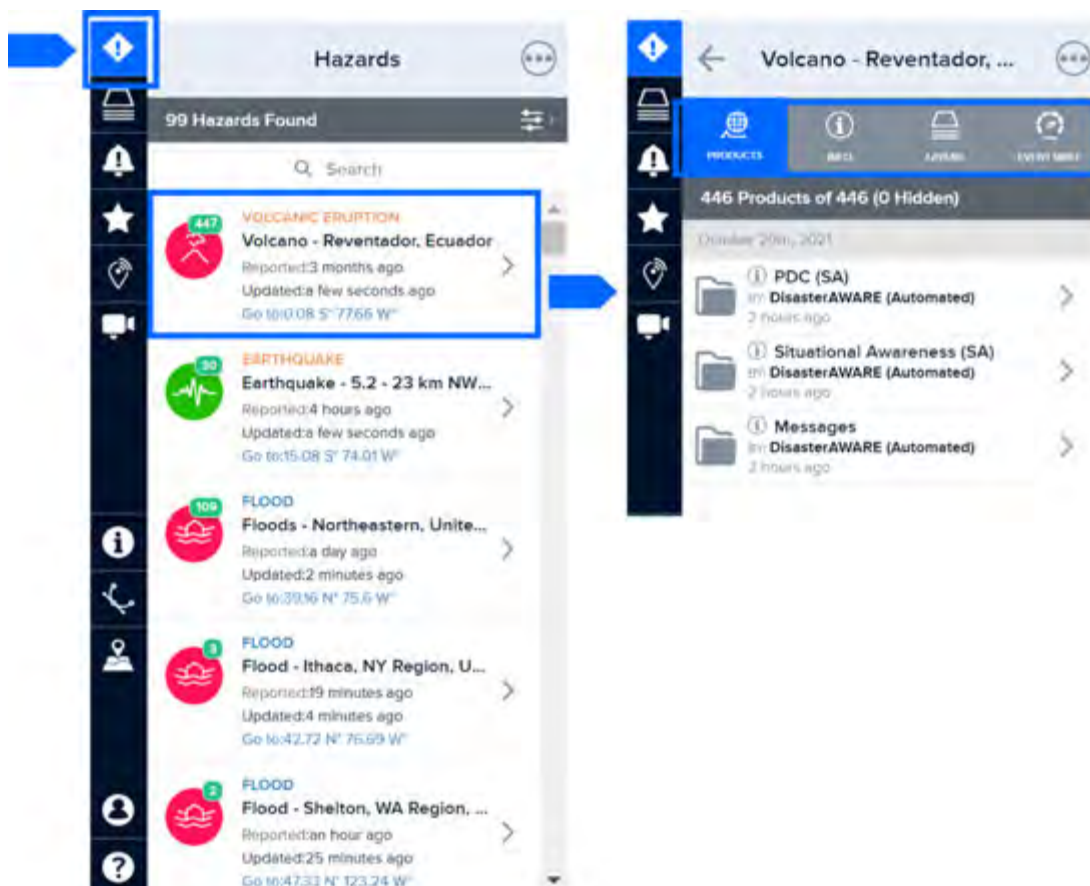
### Hazard tooltip

The hazard tooltip provides quick access to several features that are designed to help you understand the potential impacts of hazards. To quickly view these tools, navigate to an area on the map of interest to you and click a hazard icon.

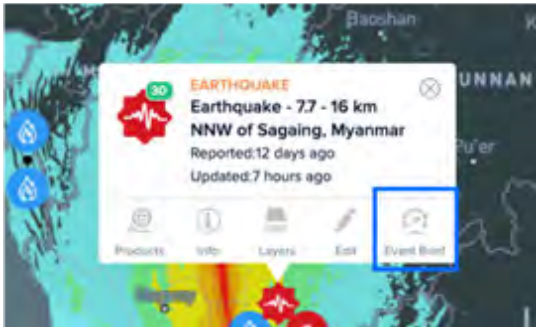
A hazard tooltip will appear with “quick links” to more information about the hazard. The tooltip provides quick links to **Products**, **Info**, **Layers**, and **Event Brief**.



**Note:** You may also access hazard **Products**, **Info**, **Layers**, and **Event Brief** by selecting a hazard from the Hazard panel and one of the corresponding tabs as shown below.



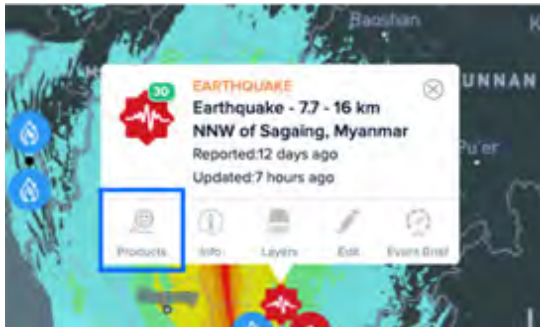
## Event Brief



**Event Brief** provides critical, life-saving information to aid rapid response during large-scale hazards that pose potentially devastating impacts. It helps anticipate hazard impacts and answer questions like: What happened? Where did it happen? How bad is it? What actions need to be taken?

For more, see *Anticipate Hazard Impacts with Event Brief* in the section to follow.

## Products



The **Products** link provides access to a variety of reports, custom maps, analyses, and other information shared by multiple agencies about the hazard. Below is an example of product types:

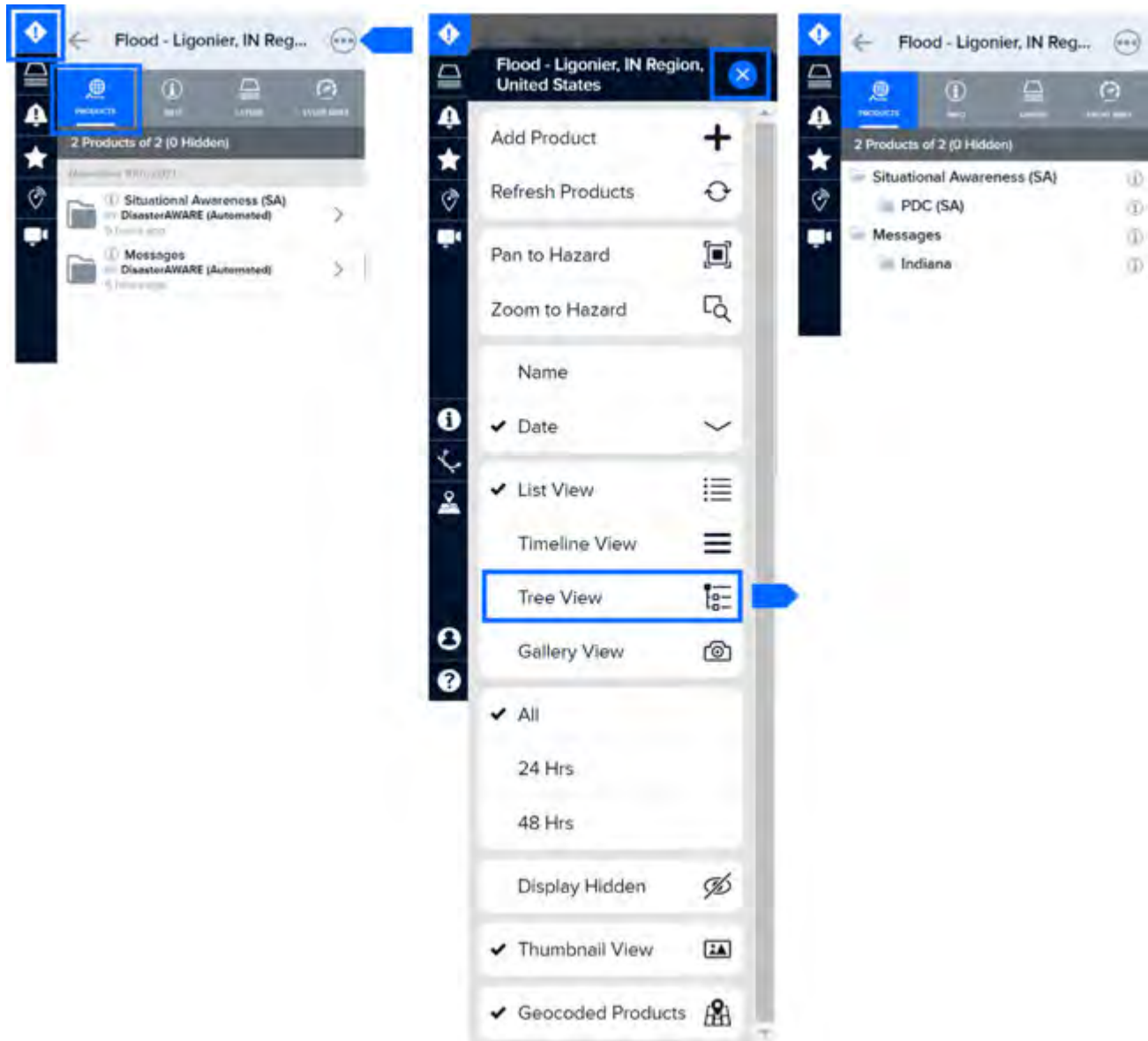
- **Situational Awareness Products** (for specialized maps, analyses, and modeled impact assessments)
- **Situation Reports** (for detailed agency updates on the situation on the ground)
- **Damage and Needs Assessments** (for information related to damage and needs)
- **Reference Maps** (for response and recovery planning)

By default, products are listed and grouped by category and organized into subfolders by the organization that authored the products.

### PRO TIP

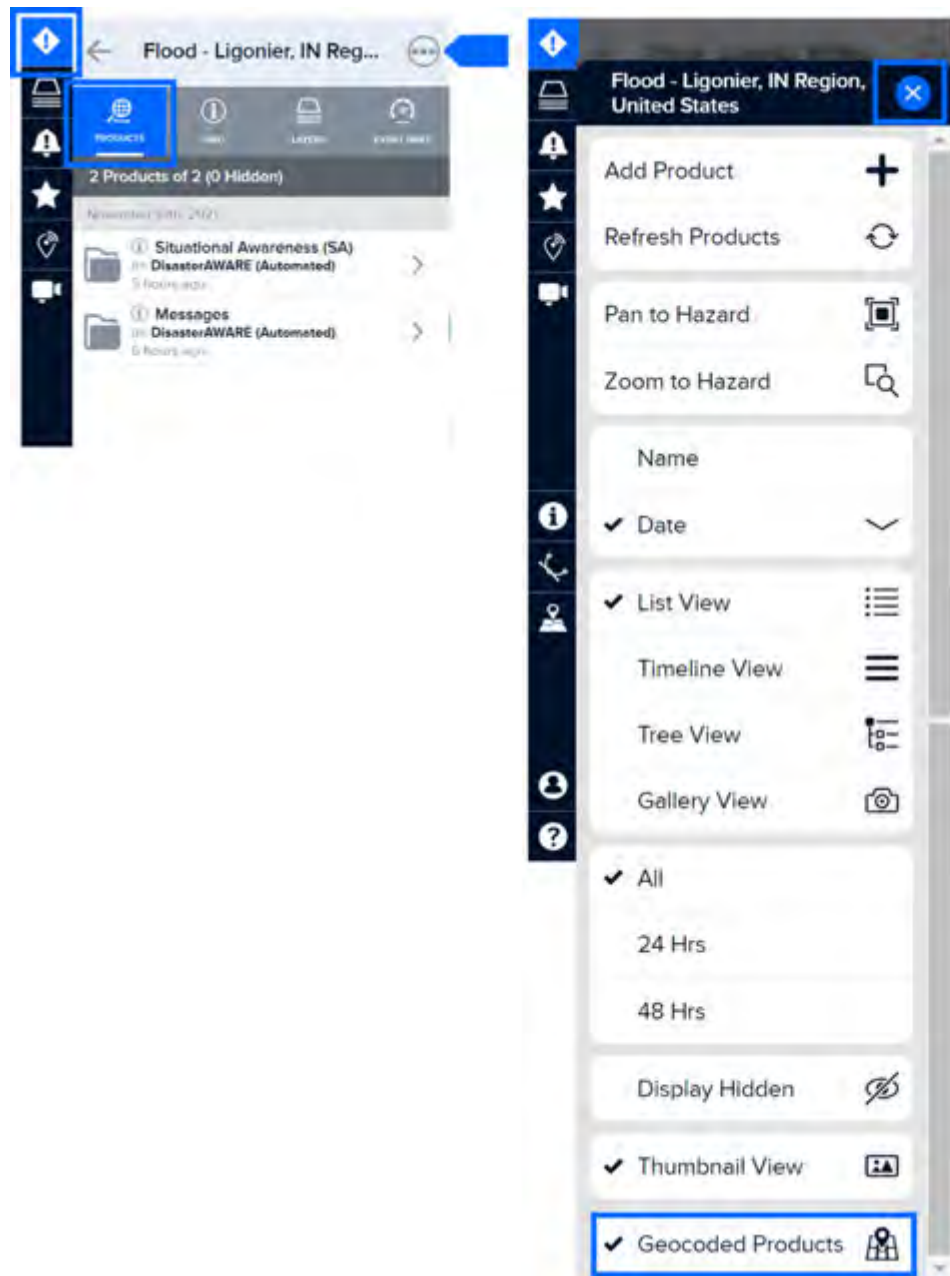
Products are set to update on a scheduled basis each hour. However, you can see the latest product uploads ahead of the refresh interval by clicking the three dots [ . . . ] at the top of the product panel to manually refresh the products list.

You can adjust the display of the products list by clicking on the **Settings** icon. You will find several options including the ability to sort products by time-period and name.



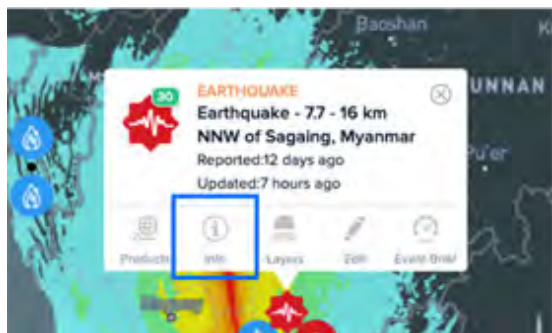
Under settings, you can also turn on the **Geocoded Products** option to view products that have been geographically coded by user-defined coordinates to display on the map.

When products are geocoded, they will appear on the map automatically, allowing you to quickly identify products by location. To turn this feature off, select the Geocoded Products option in the **Product Settings** panel.



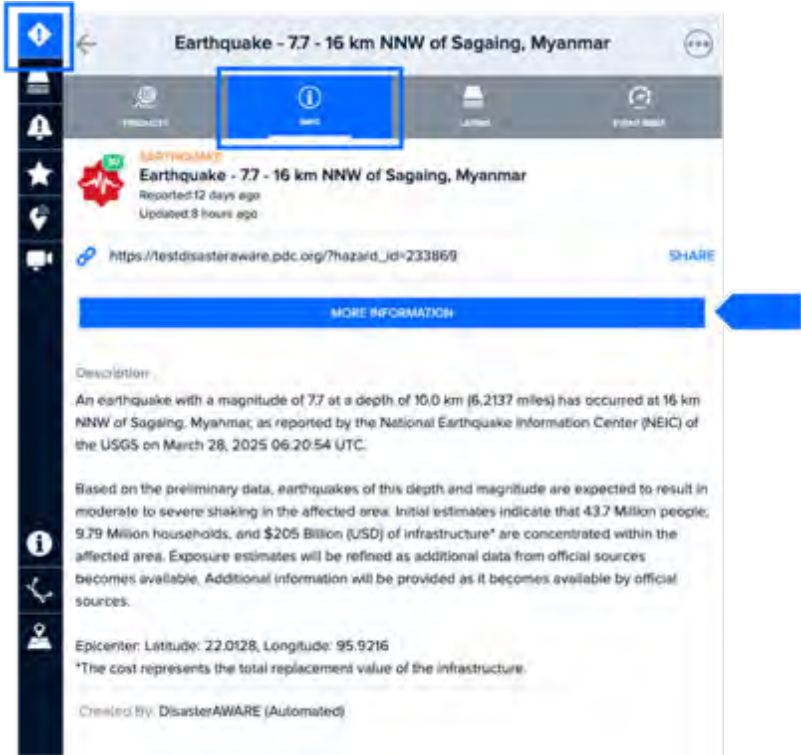


# Info



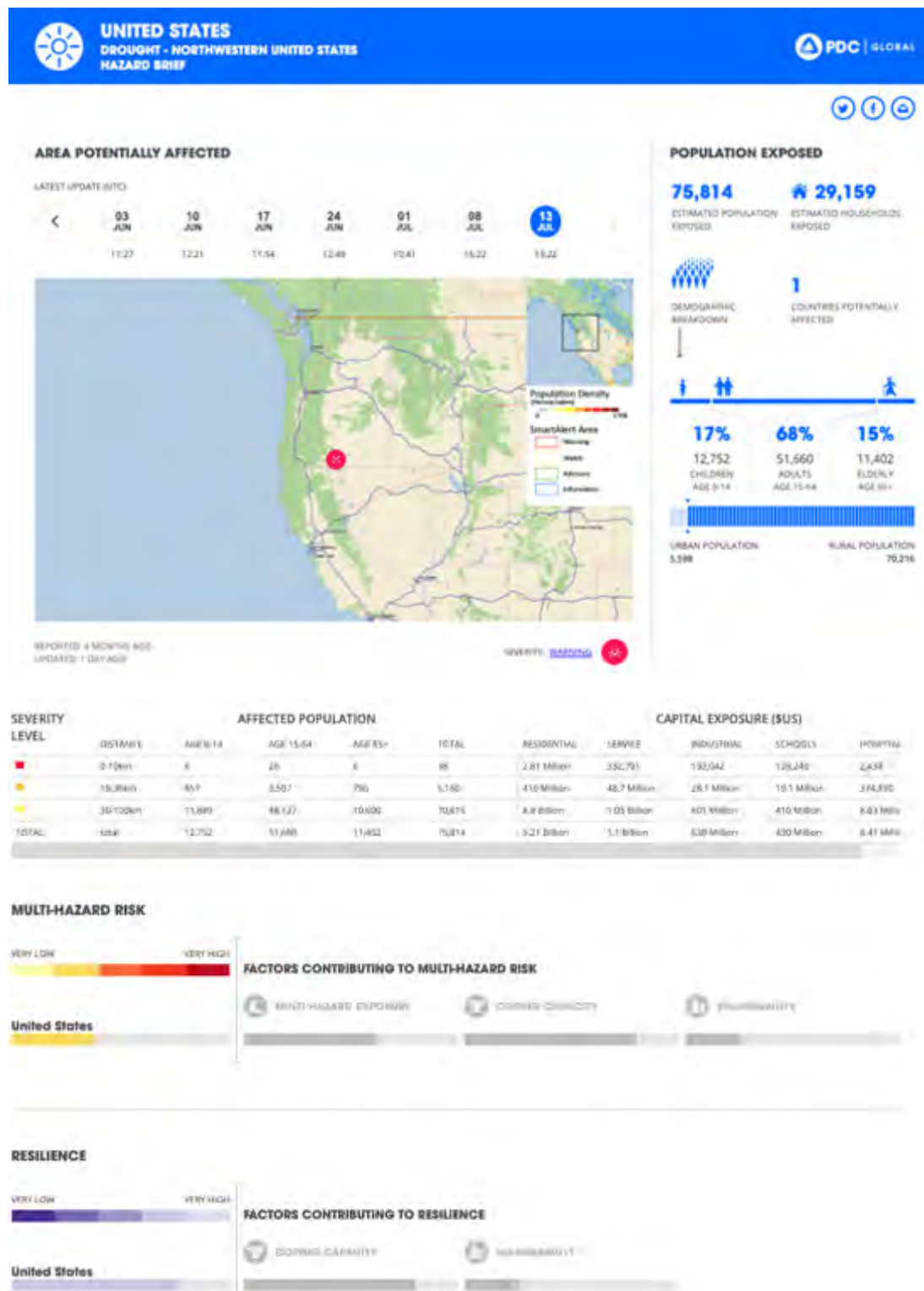
The **Info** link provides a hazard summary, a quick link to share the hazard with other users of the system, and the **More Information** button which links to potential impact reports provided by PDC's All-hazard Impact Model.

With the **Info** panel open, click the **More Information** button to see a summary of potential impacts reported in PDC's **Hazard Brief**. Hazard Brief is a shortened version of Event Brief that offers hazard impacts for smaller-scale hazards.

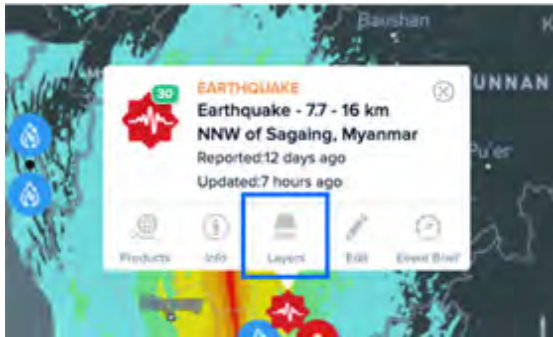


**Hazard Brief** summarizes potential impacts to populations and infrastructure, breaking down exposure by demographic, geography, and population centers.

It also describes risk factors for vulnerable groups and offers a wealth of additional information about the hazard.

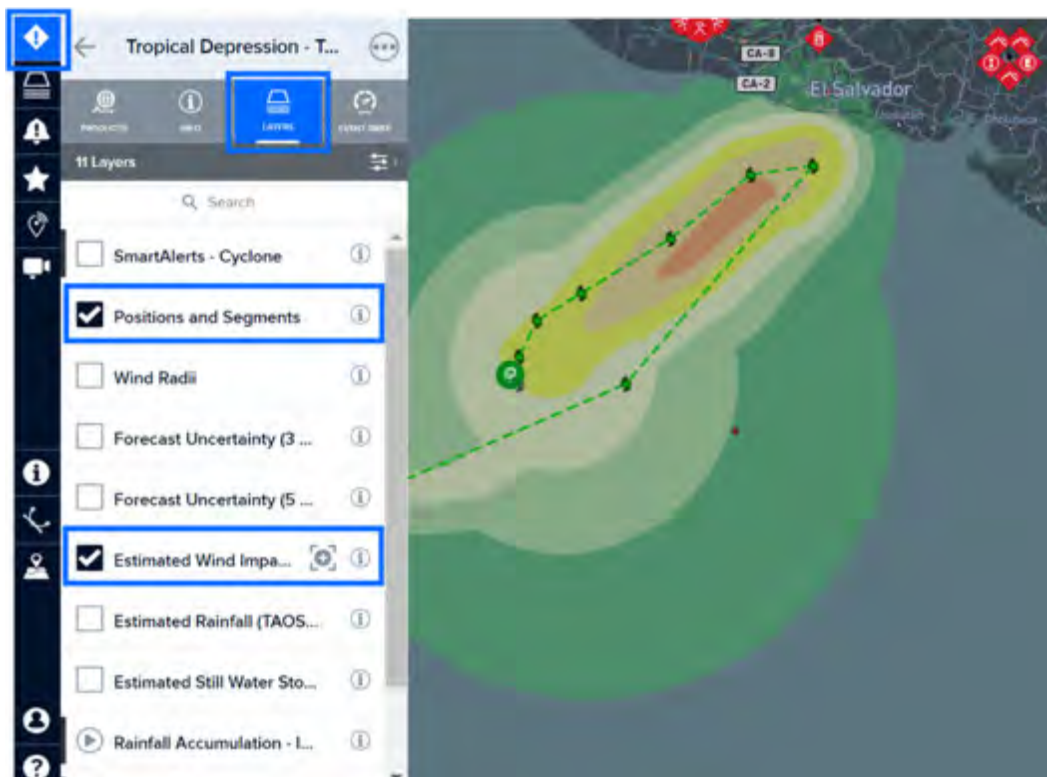


## Layers



The **Layers** link allows you to view default hazard layers and explore other pertinent information to help assess potential impacts of a hazard.

For example, the **Estimated Wind Impacts** layer shown below represents the potential severity of impacts that might be experienced over the 5-day forecast, for that area. Overlay this layer with population and critical infrastructure data to quickly assess which areas are at greater risk and may require assistance.



## ANTICIPATE HAZARD IMPACTS WITH EVENT BRIEF

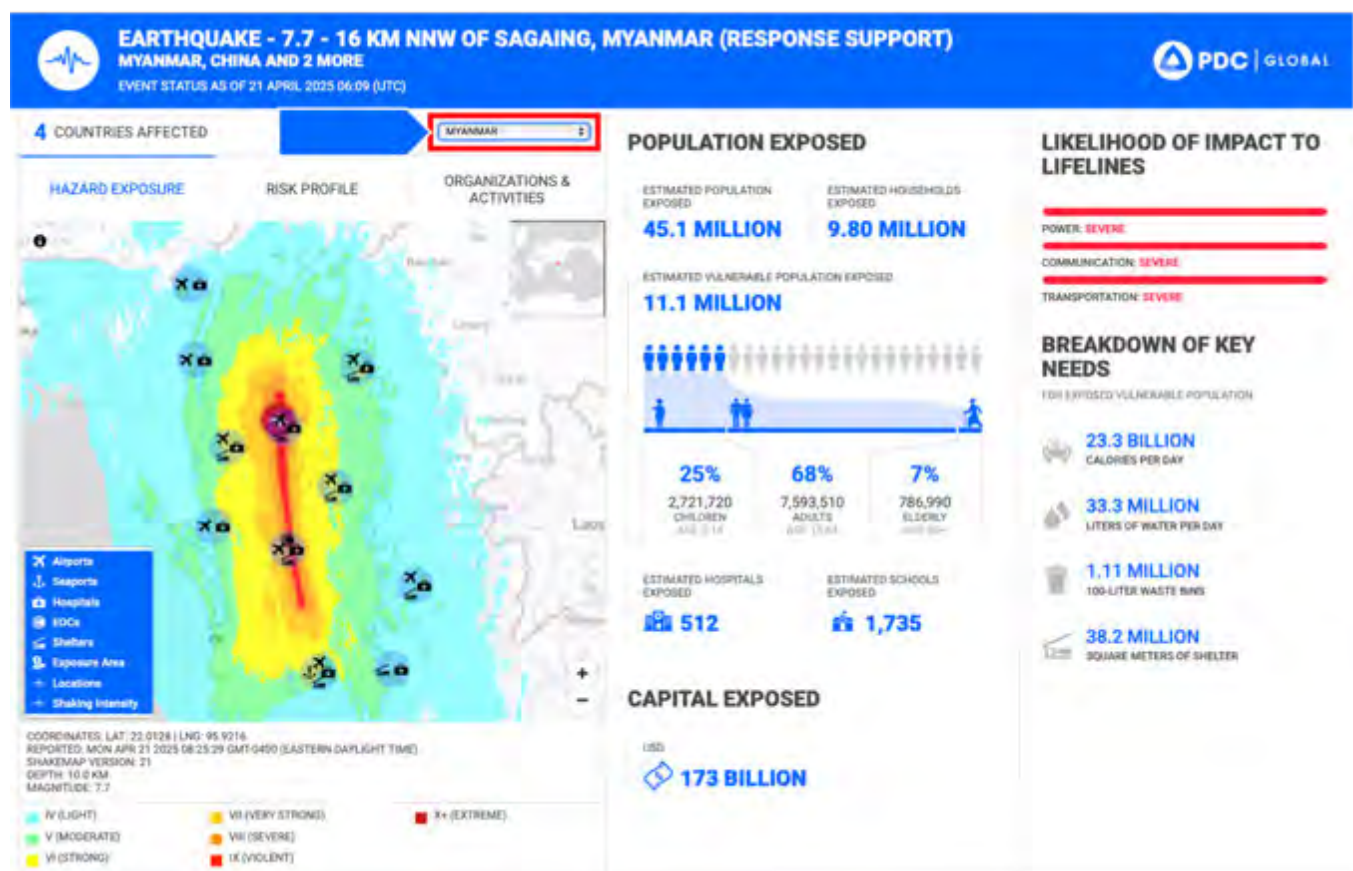
Event Brief provides critical, life-saving information to aid rapid response during large-scale hazard events that pose potentially devastating impacts. It helps anticipate hazard impacts and answer questions like: What happened? Where did it happen? How bad is it? What actions need to be taken?

For hazards that meet the Event Brief threshold (see thresholds later in this section), you can gain quick and easy access to:

- Estimated population exposure, critical infrastructure, and capital exposure
- Potential impacts to lifelines
- Estimated humanitarian needs
- Risk and vulnerability information
- Live cameras (available for select locations)
- Humanitarian organizations operating in the affected area
- Current weather conditions
- Latest maps and products shared by PDC and other response organizations
- Historical event impacts for comparison
- Travel and health advisories
- Top news stories about the event

**\*Please note:** Certain features listed above may not be visible if data is unavailable for the hazard or area of interest. For more on hazards supported by Event Brief, see section later in this document titled *Event Brief Hazard Thresholds*.

### EXAMPLE EVENT BRIEF REPORT

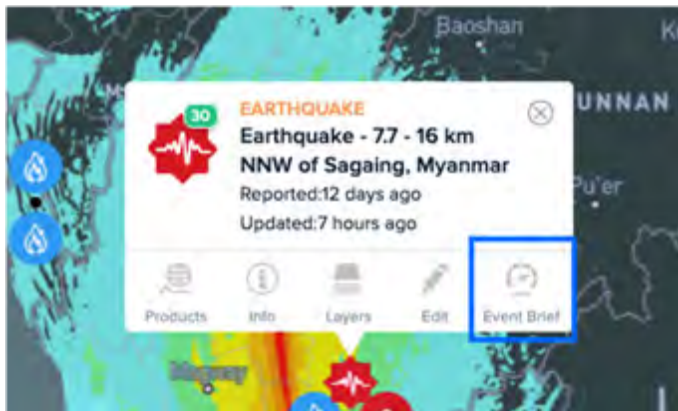




## How to access Event Brief



**Option 1:** Click a hazard icon hazard via the map and then click the Event Brief icon. The Event Brief report will open in a new tab within your browser and will automatically refresh every 60 seconds as new information becomes available.



**Option 2:** Open the Hazard panel and select your hazard of interest. Then, click on the Event Brief tab and select the **Open Event Brief** button.

**Important:** The Event Brief will open in a new browser tab. If it does not, check your browser settings to ensure pop-ups are allowed so the Event Brief is not blocked from opening and displaying.



## Filter results by country

By default, Event Brief displays estimates for the entire geographic area affected by a hazard. If there is more than one country affected by a hazard, you can filter information based on single country. Click the **Set Filter by Country** dropdown.

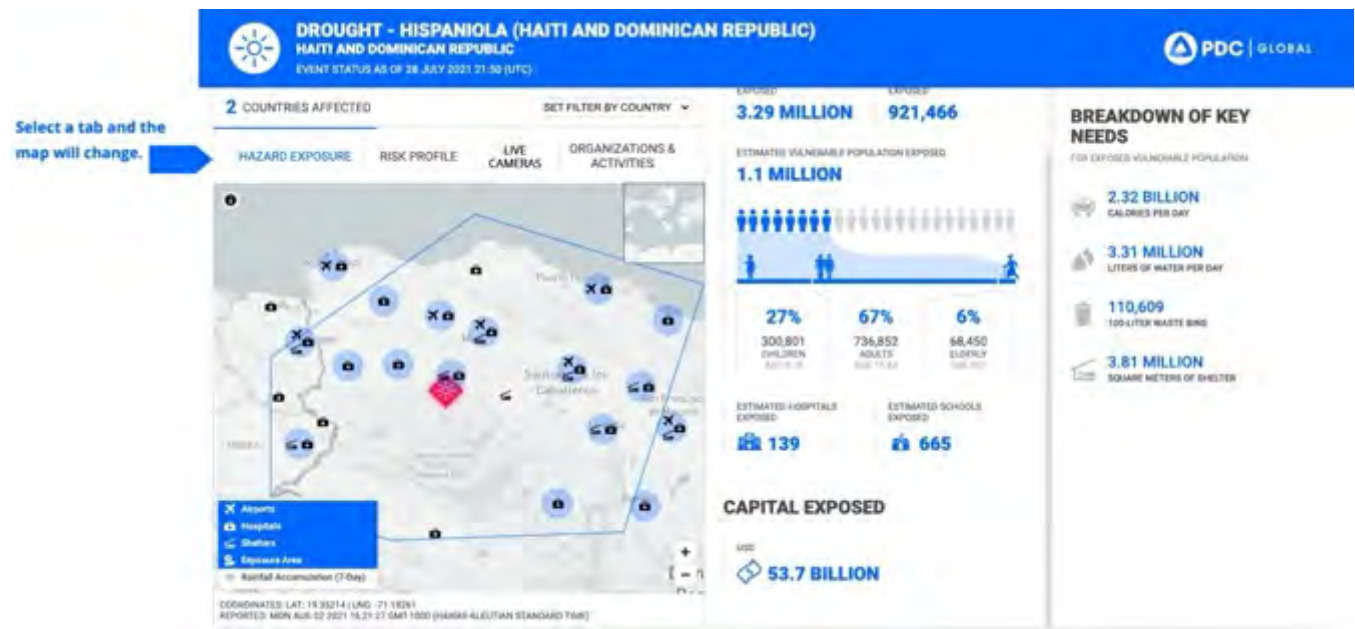


You can remove the country filter by selecting the Set Filter by Country dropdown again.



## Hazard Exposure tab

The Hazard Exposure tab is activated by default when you first load an Event Brief. When you navigate between tabs, the map and the supporting information changes to reflect the subject of the tab.



## Map navigation

You can navigate the Event Brief map in the following ways:

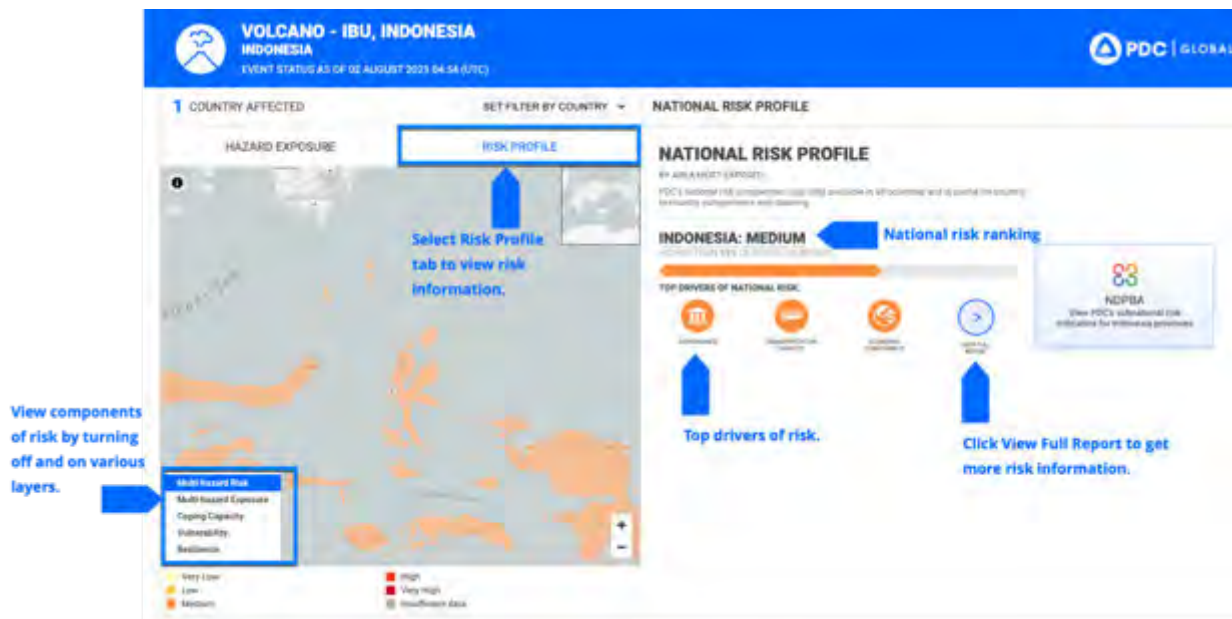
- Click the map with your mouse, then hold and drag your cursor to move the map in the desired direction.
- Select the on-screen zoom in (+) and out (-) buttons in the lower right corner of the map to change your zoom extent, or double-click on the map to zoom in.
- Add or remove visible data layers displayed on the map by selecting an item from the list on the bottom left corner of the map. A blue highlight means the data layer is visible.
- Use the zoom options described above to view individual points in a clustered dataset. Note: Clustered data is depicted by a light blue circle surrounding the clustered information.

## Risk Profile tab

Event Brief provides national and subnational risk information to support strategic planning and response. Note that subnational risk information is only available for select countries.

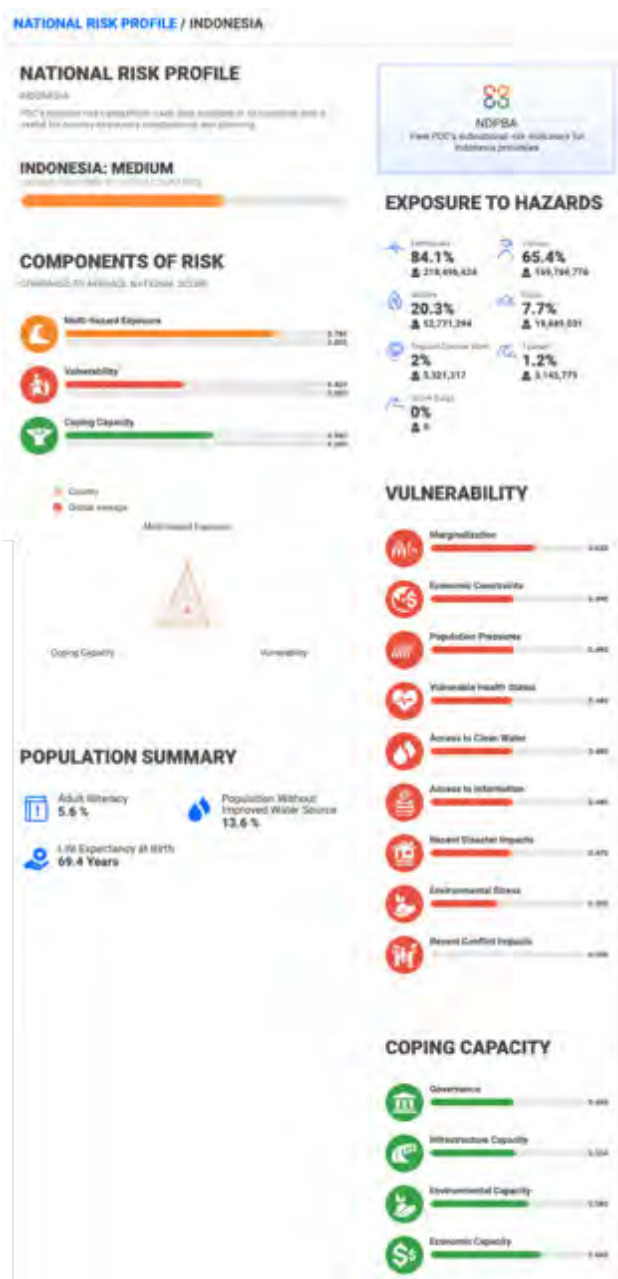
### National risk information

Select the **Risk Profile** tab to view national risk rankings and top drivers of risk for impacted areas. You can filter various components of risk (vulnerability, coping capacity, multi-hazard exposure) and more by using the bottom left menu to toggle data layers off and on.



Select the **View Full Report** option to access more detail about a nation's risk ranking.

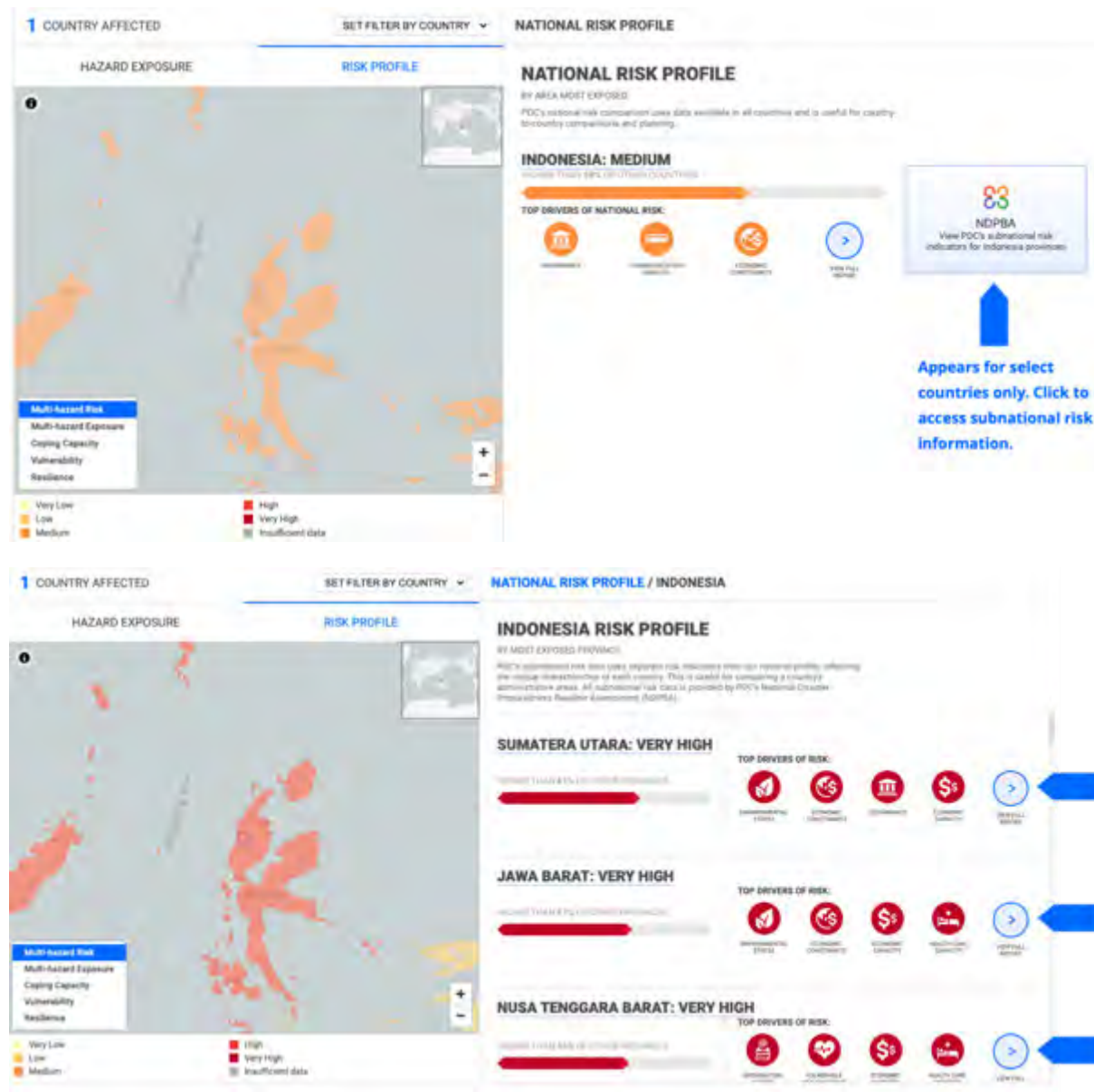
The full national risk report includes a breakdown of key risk factors as shown below.



## Subnational risk information

Event Brief offers subnational risk information for select countries, with subnational risk data for approximately 20% of the globe. This information is provided exclusively through PDC's National Disaster Preparedness and Baseline Assessment (NDPBA) program.

To access subnational risk information, select the **NDPBA** for a particular country. Note: This button appears for countries in which data is available at the subnational level.

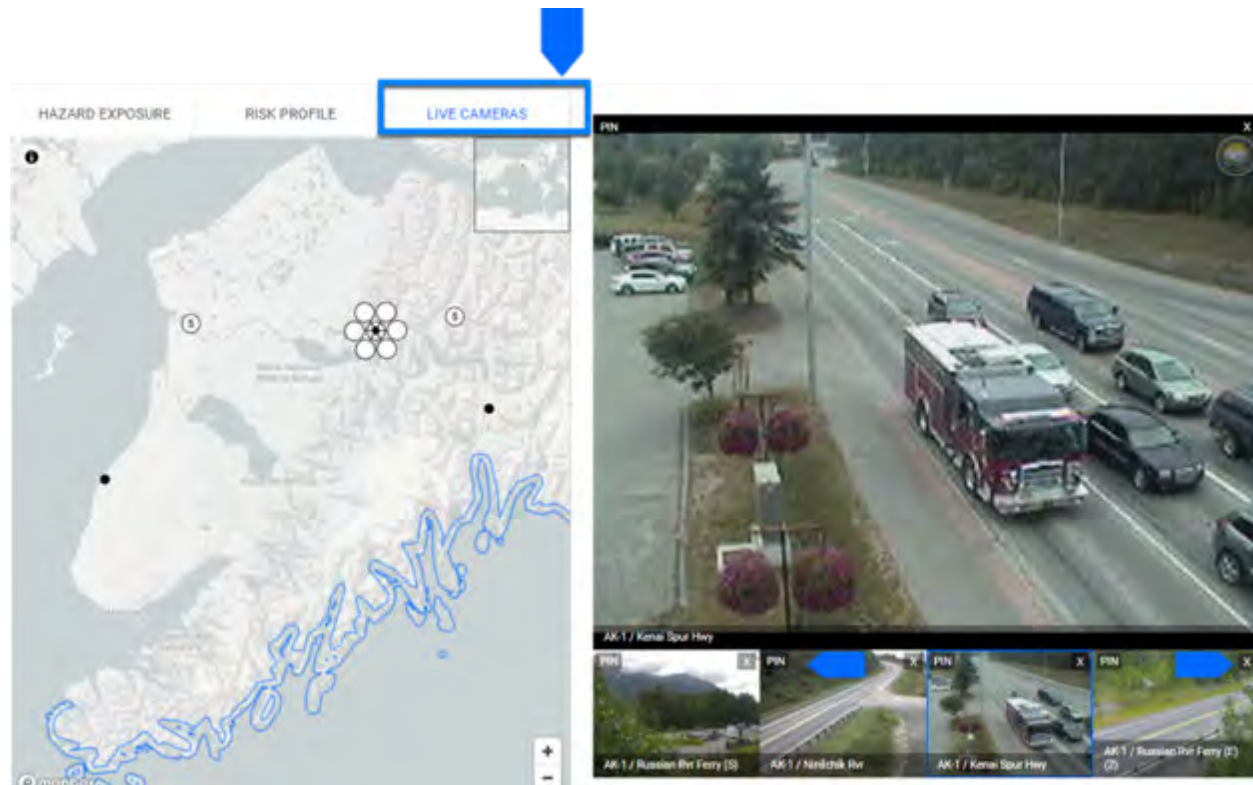


Subnational risk data appears in the map with a summary of subnational administrative breakdowns to the right. Select **View Full Report** for details on what is contributing to risk in a particular administrative area.

## Live Cameras tab

To get a picture of what is happening on-the-ground, select the **Live Cameras** tab. You may see black points on the map which represent individual camera locations. Numbered points indicate clusters of cameras.

- Zoom in or click on a cluster to view individual camera locations.
- Click on an individual camera point to view it to the right of the map. You can view up to 4 cameras at once.
- Select one of the smaller camera images/videos for a larger view.
- Pin cameras to their desired position by selecting the **PIN** button
- Remove cameras by selecting the **X** button



## Organizations & Activities tab

The Organizations & Activities tab allows decision makers to quickly identify humanitarian and other organizations operating in the affected area in order to facilitate greater coordination between groups.





# Supplemental information (weather, news)

## Latest weather updates

The Hazard Exposure tab provides the latest weather updates for the impacted area. This is especially useful for determining if inclement weather may adversely affect exposed populations and/or relief operations. Note that both imperial and metric conversions are available.



## Situational awareness products

The Hazard Exposure tab provides quick access the latest situational awareness maps and products shared by PDC and other partners. Click on a product thumbnail to view or download an enlarged version.



## Event history

Access historical event details while on the Hazard Exposure tab to help you compare information about similar events that have impacted the same area. Note that the event with the largest 'Total Affected' population will be highlighted.



## Travel and health advisories

Travel and health advisories are provided on the Hazard Exposure tab to support response and planning for the impacted area. Select the blue paperclip icon to the right to download advisory details.

### ADVISORIES

#### TRAVEL ADVISORIES

001 Aug 18 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

**COVID-19 Very High - COVID-19 in Italy**  
Travelers should avoid all travel to Italy

002 Aug 18 2020 00:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

**Warning - COVID-19 in Italy**  
COVID-19 risk in Italy is high. CDC recommends travelers avoid all nonessential international travel to Italy.

003 Aug 18 2020 00:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

**Watch - Coronavirus in Italy**  
The ongoing outbreak of respiratory illness has spread to Italy.

#### HEALTH ADVISORIES

001 Aug 18 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

**West Nile virus**  
United States

002 Aug 18 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

**Zika**  
India Kerala

## Top news stories

You can read the latest news stories about an event on the Hazard Exposure tab provided by major news outlets around the globe. Click on a story to access its full content.

### TOP NEWS STORIES



**TROPICAL STORM CEMPAKA UPGRADED TO TYPHOON - FOCUS TAIWAN**  
001 Jul 19 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

Taipei, July 20 (CNA) Tropical Storm Cempaka was upgraded to a typhoon Tuesday evening, and Tropical Storm In-Fa could be reclassified as a typhoon as early as Tuesday afternoon, according to the Central Weather Bureau (CWB).

As of 6 a.m., Cempaka was centered 350 kilometers west of Taiwan's southern tip.



**TROPICAL STORM TO PASS OVER WATERS NEAR TAIWAN SATURDAY: CWB - FOCUS TAIWAN**  
001 Jul 19 2020 17:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

Taipei, July 20 (CNA) The Central Weather Bureau (CWB) has forecast that Tropical Storm In-Fa will pass over waters north of Taiwan on Saturday and head for China's Fujian or Zhejiang province.

The CWB said Tuesday the storm will come close to Taiwan Monday and that its impact will be minor.



**CHINA ACCUSED OF CYBER-ATTACK ON MICROSOFT**  
001 Jul 19 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

Beijing, July 19 (CNA) China accused the United States of cyberattacks on Microsoft Tuesday, as many Covid restrictions are lifted in Beijing as it moves to celebrate or power. And a flood of protests in southwest China has sparked deadly protests.



**TWO EARTHQUAKES HIT HUALIEN IN FOUR MINUTES EARLY MONDAY MORNING - FOCUS TAIWAN**  
001 Jul 19 2020 18:00 GMT+08:00 Asia/HongKong+8 Time

Taipei, July 19 (CNA) Two earthquakes rocked Hualien, eastern Taiwan, in four minutes early Monday morning with no immediate damage or injuries reported, according to the Central Weather Bureau (CWB).

The first tremor with a magnitude of 3.0 took place at 2:40 a.m. and was centered 5.5 kilometers.



SHOW MORE

## Event Brief Triggers

Event Brief provides automated, near-real-time hazard impact assessments for hazards impacting (or predicted to impact) population. An Event Brief will be made available (triggered) when DisasterAWARE detects that population fall within the areas listed for each hazard below.

Note: Event brief provides enhanced and expanded exposure and impact information to help you quickly answer *What happened? When and where did it happen? How bad is it?* However, **if a hazard does not meet the trigger requirements listed below to issue an Event Brief**, preliminary exposure estimates can be accessed by selecting the “More Information” button under that hazard’s Information tab. Be sure to revisit the hazard to see if an Event Brief has been created and for updates.

Hazard	Event Brief Triggers (Population exposed to the following.)
Tropical Cyclone	Minor Damage; power out and higher - Estimated Wind Impacts (TOAS Model)
Avalanche	10km buffer (PDC)
Biomedical	General affected area (PDC)
Drought	General affected area (PDC)
Earthquake	Moderate Shaking (V) and stronger – Shaking Intensity (USGS ShakeMap Model)
Extreme Temperature	General affected area (PDC)
Flood	US – Flood Warning area (NWS) Canada – Flood Warning area (Canada Met) Hawaii – Flood hazard area (NWS) Global – Predictive Flood Warning area (NASA/PDC) or general affected area (PDC)
High Surf	Hawaii – High Surf alert area (NWS) Global – General affected area (PDC)
High Winds	Hawaii – High Winds alert area (NWS) Global – General affected area (PDC)
Landslide	Predictive Landslide hazard area (NASA/PDC) or general affected area (PDC)
Marine	General affected area (PDC)
Storm	General affected area (PDC)
Tornado	US – Warning and Watches area (NWS) Global – General affected area (PDC)
Tsunami	Coastal inland buffer refined by local tsunami zones were available (PDC)
Volcano	10km buffer refined by additional hazard data for specific volcanos were available (PDC)
Wildfire	Global – 24-hour Wildfire Activity Area (PDC) or manually defined general affected area (PDC) if not available USA – Current Wildfire Perimeter (NIFC) or 24-hour Wildfire Activity Area (PDC) if not available
Winter Storm	US – Winter Storm Warning area (NWS) Global – General affected area (PDC)

## DATA LAYERS TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING

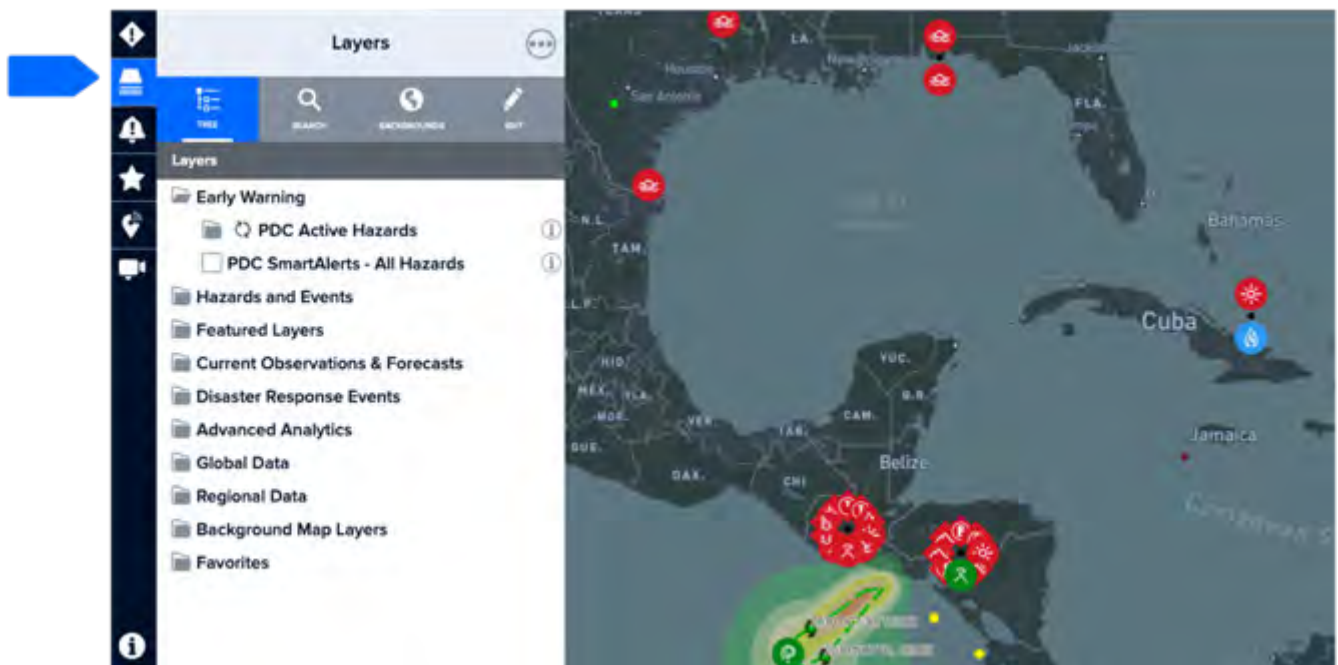
DisasterAWARE provides access to thousands of data layers to support decision making. It offers the largest, most reliable inventory of authoritative data in a single system—including information about current and historical hazards, population and demographics, infrastructure, risk and vulnerability, and much more.

PDC has enhanced the underlying mapping technology to further improve layer display and responsiveness—resulting in better accessibility and optimal performance. Improvements include smoother map transitions when zooming and enhanced visibility of place names. For select layers, such as population density, the system now resamples data on the fly to automatically adjust resolution based on your zoom level.

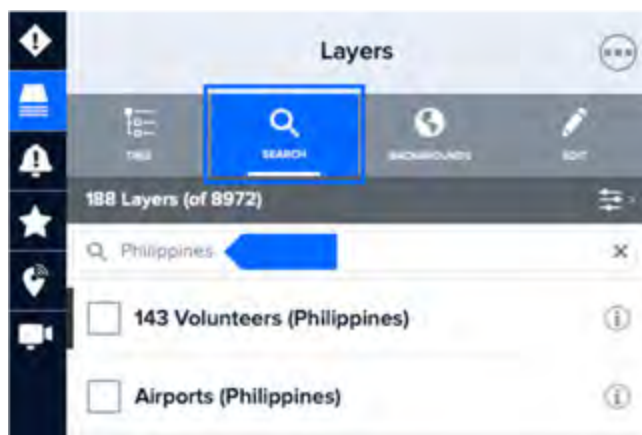
### Explore data layers



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar to view a list of available data layers. Layers are grouped by category into folders. Expand each folder to view the layers associated with a category.

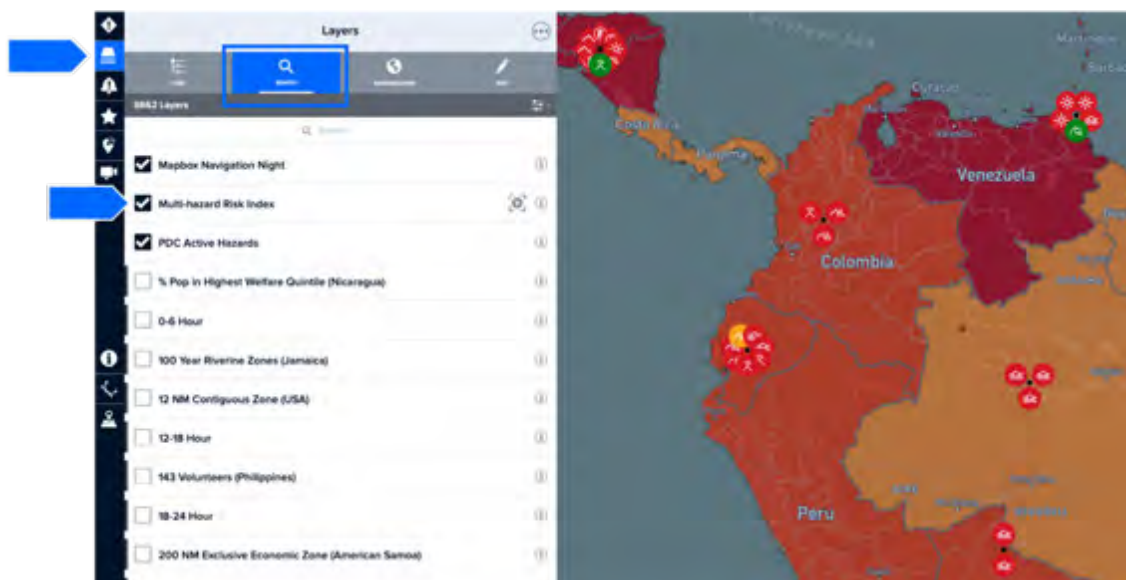


With the layers panel open, you can also use the **Search** tab to locate layers by keyword (e.g. Philippines schools). Check the box to the left to view the data on the map.



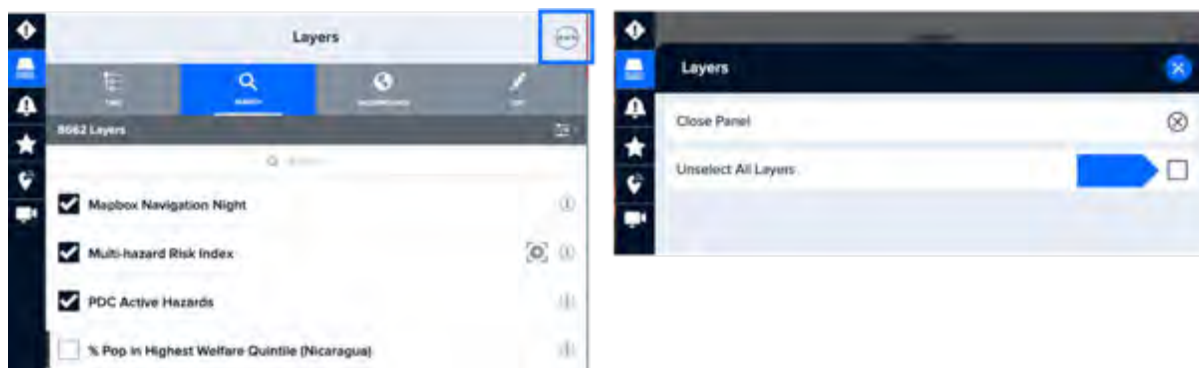
## How to quickly identify which map layers are turned on

To quickly see which map layers are turned on, click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar and select the **Search** tab from the layers panel. All active layers appear at the top and are depicted by a check mark on the left.



## How to turn layers on and off

Uncheck the box to the left of a layer to turn it off or check an empty box to turn a layer on.



### PRO TIP

Data layers provide essential information to support your assessments and decision making. However, too many layers can be overwhelming. To quickly turn all layers off at once, click the three dots at the top of the layers panel (as shown above), and choose **Unselect All Layers**.

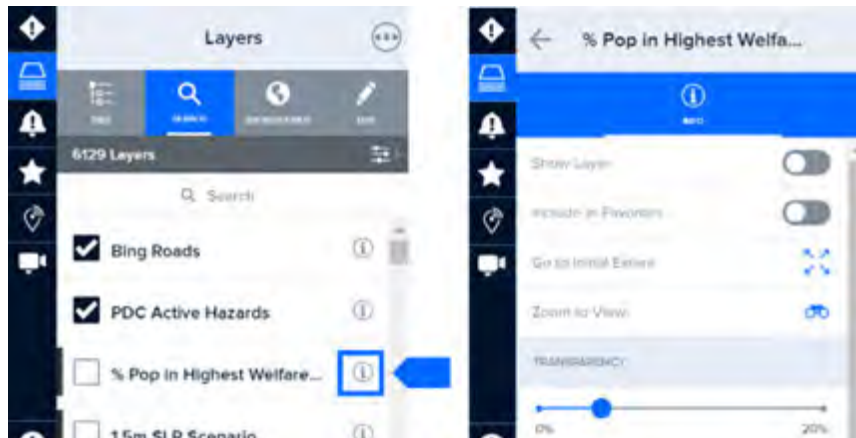


## Layer properties and data sources

### Layer transparency



Click the **Info** icon to adjust the transparency of a layer to see other layers or the base map beneath it.



### Data sources for layers



PDC closely vets the integrity of data layers before integrating them into DisasterAWARE. You can learn more about the data in the system that is driving your decisions such as the data source, when it was last updated, and any specific considerations.

Click the **Info** icon to the right of any layer title (as shown above) to view its data source and see when it was last updated. To see additional details about the data source, click the **View Full Metadata** button at the bottom of the info panel.



### Frequency of data layer updates

Much of PDC's data is updated automatically, in real-time, as soon as information is released by an authoritative agency. This includes the majority of PDC's hazard layers, as well as its observational and forecast layers.

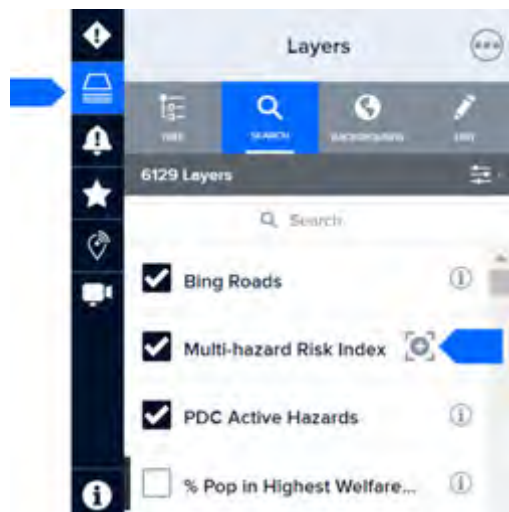
Other types of data in the system are updated by PDC manually as soon as information is made available. See the *Appendix* for a comprehensive list of hazards and their corresponding frequency of updates. See also section titled *View and search the active hazards list* for information on how to manually refresh the Hazard list with the latest updates.

## Layer zoom



Click the zoom icon to the right of the layer name (shown below) if you are having trouble viewing the layer you've selected. The map will zoom and re-center to bring the information into view.

**Note:** Some layers require the map to be zoomed to a minimum extent or to a specific location in order to display the information.



## Explore data layer details

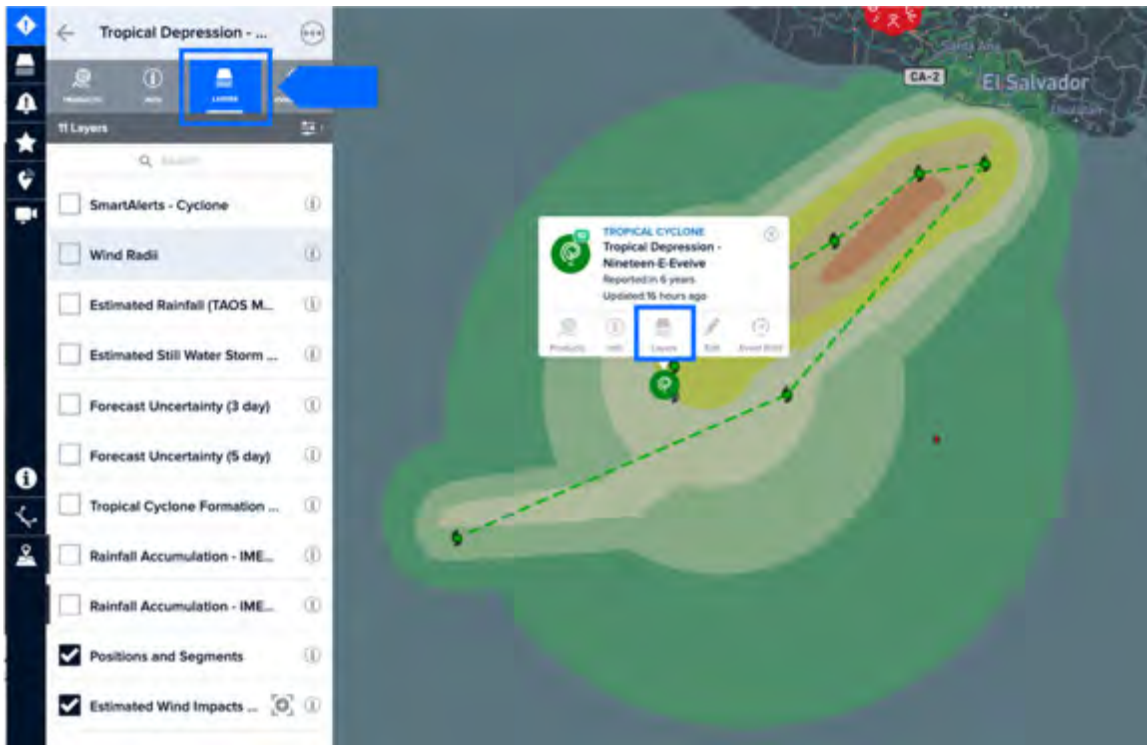
Data layers may be displayed and combined to quickly produce a meaningful map. You may also click on a layer's map points and features to view associated data.

In the feature's pop-up on the map, you can access a summary of key information. To access even more details, select the Info button on the pop-up.

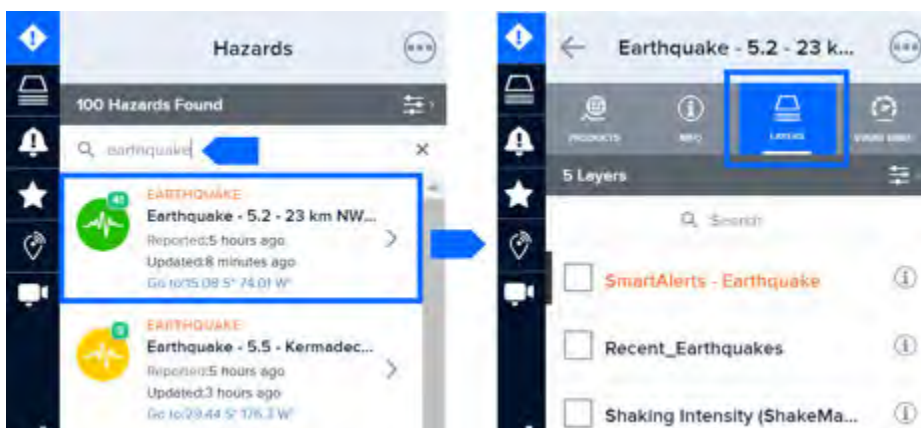


## View hazard-specific layers

Click a hazard on the map to launch the **Hazard tooltip**. From the tooltip, click the **Layers** button to access key layers specific to that hazard type. You can turn these layers on to help you better understand potential impacts.



You may also access these key, hazard-specific layers by clicking the **Hazards** icon on the left toolbar, selecting a hazard, and then clicking on the **Layers** tab.



To learn more about the specific layers that are available for all hazards, click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar. Under the **Hazards and Events** folder, choose the subfolder to explore even more layers for each hazard type.

## Layers to support major disaster response events

During major disaster events with widespread impacts to people's lives and livelihoods, PDC will often include data layers in support of response and recovery operations. Generally, these layers are for major events that require substantial support from PDC and the global humanitarian assistance and disaster relief community. Learn more about past major response events under the section *Historical Hazard Layers*.

## Access country-specific layers

### Types of country layers available in DisasterAWARE

While information varies from country to country, the common datasets offered in DisasterAWARE include: critical infrastructure, population and demographics, transportation, risk and vulnerability, and hazard zones information.

#### Example subset of country map layers for Nicaragua

(Infrastructure, hazard zones, clean water vulnerability index)



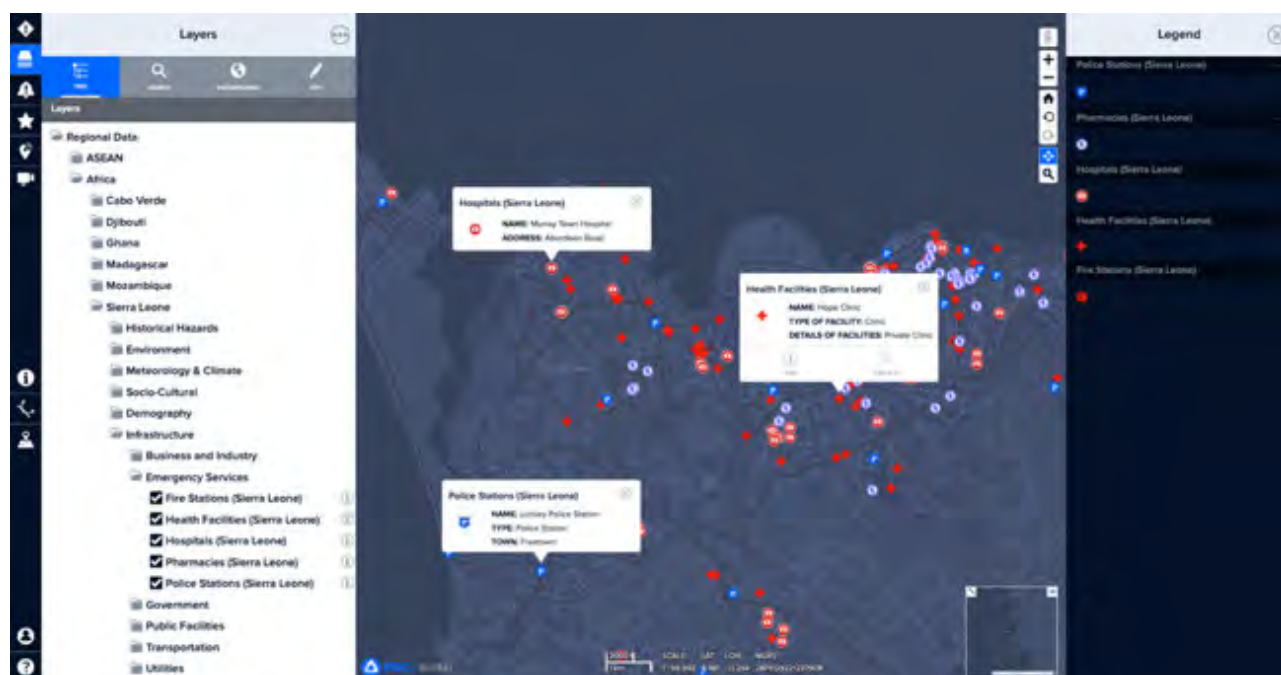
## Explore country layers



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar to view a list of PDC's country layers. Scroll down to the **Regional Data** folder.



Open the regional folder that includes the country you are interested in.

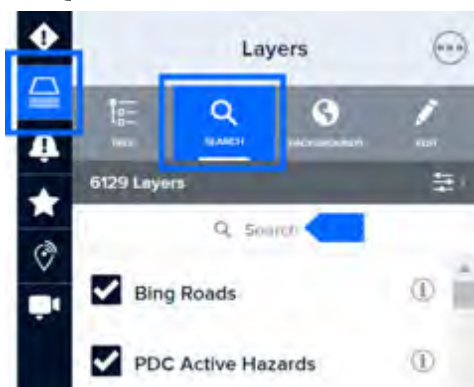




## Search for country layers



With the **Layers** panel open, click the **Search** tab to search for layers by country name or keyword.



## View risk and vulnerability layers

Effective decision making requires a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk in order to protect lives, livelihoods, property, critical lifelines, and social and economic vitality. DisasterAWARE provides you with access to PDC's global Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) information at the national level for over 190 countries, and subnational RVA information for select countries.

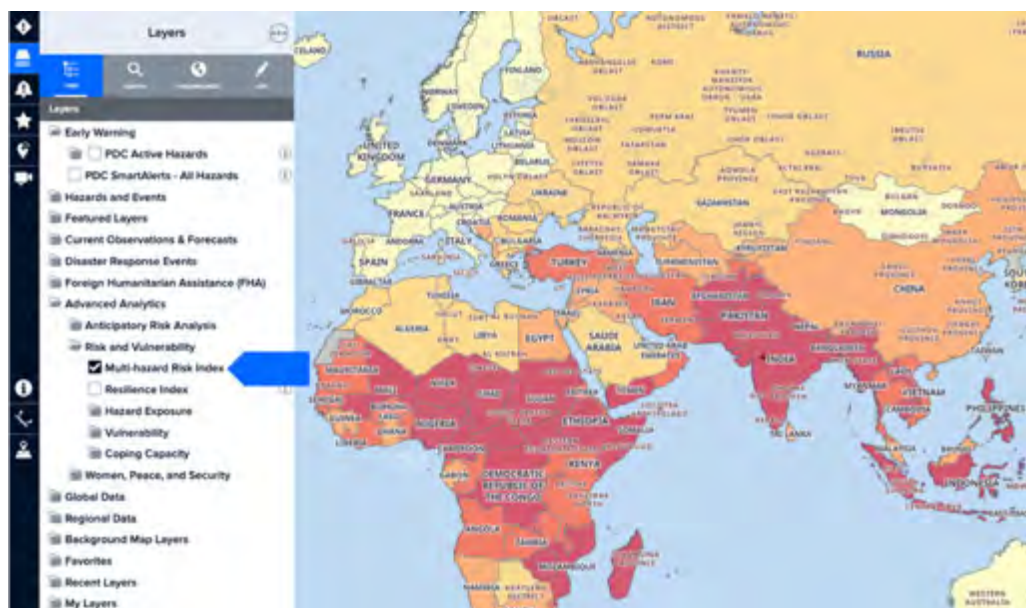
## Locate global risk and vulnerability indicators



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar.



Scroll down to the **Advanced Analytics** folder and open the **Risk and Vulnerability** folder. You can view a national comparison of overall multi-hazard risk. Expand the folder to drill deeper to inspect the national indicators of risk that contribute to the overall score.



## Locate subnational risk and vulnerability indicators

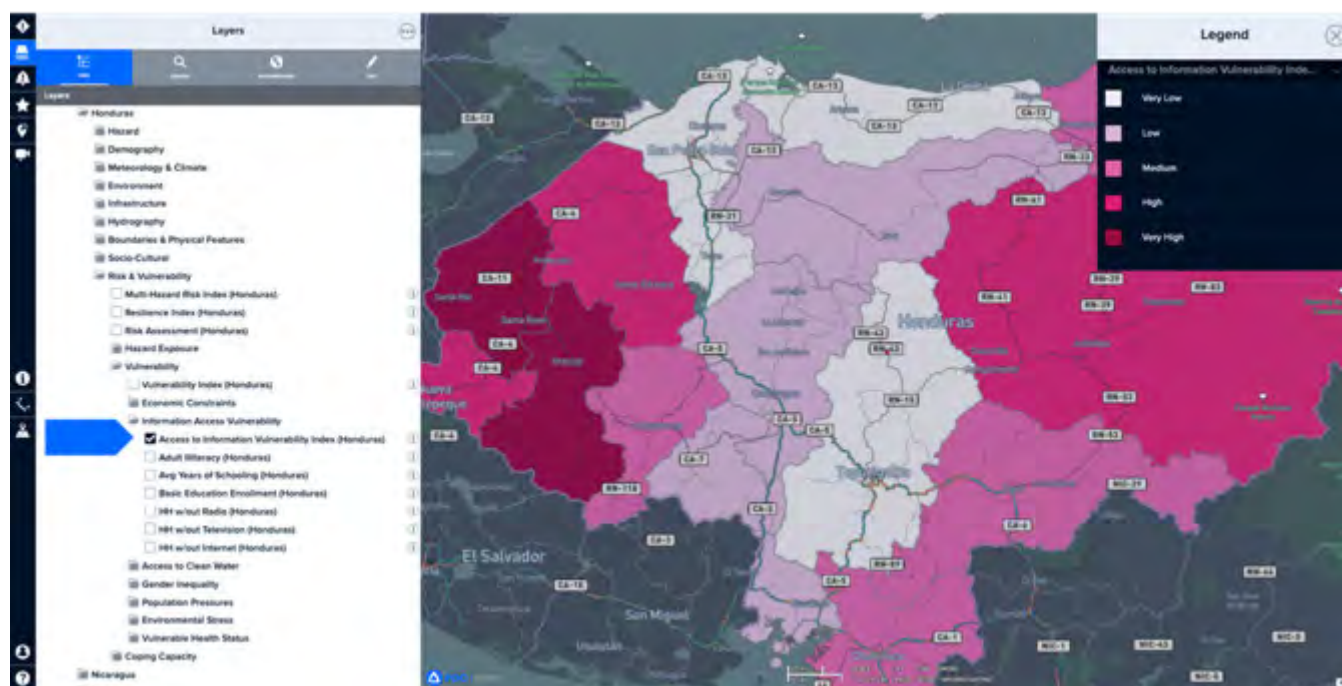
\*Available for select countries only.



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar. Scroll down to the **Regional Data** folder and open the regional subfolder in which the country of your interest resides.



Once in the proper regional subfolder, expand the **Country** folder > **Risk and Vulnerability** folder. You can view a comparison of overall risk and specific risk indicators at the subnational level.



## View historical hazard layers

PDC provides a variety of historical hazard information within DisasterAWARE. Information about historical hazard events can provide insight about the potential for future hazard impacts, the scale and scope of impacts, and can be used to help guide disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response plans.

Historical hazard data are also useful for conducting realistic, evidence-based preparedness exercises and for simulating hazard scenarios based on real-world events.

### Historical hazard layers

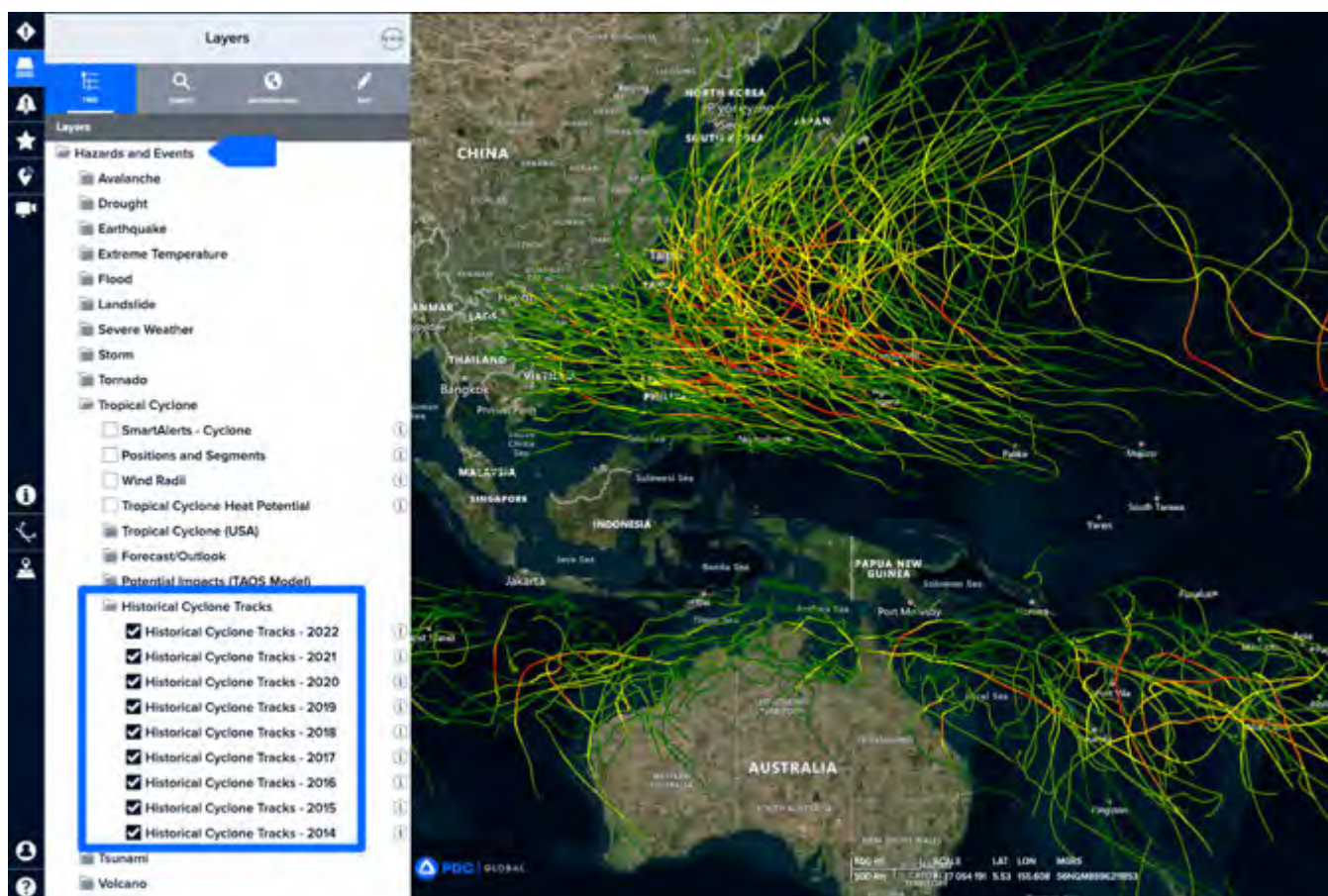
You can explore historical hazard data by selecting the type of hazard from the layers panel.



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar. Scroll down to the **Hazards and Warnings** folder.



Expand the folder and navigate to the hazard type of your interest. Many types of hazards, although not all, have subfolders with historical information that can be viewed on the map.





## Advanced search for expired hazards

The **Advanced Hazard Search** is located under the **Hazards panel** and allows you to search active and historical DisasterAWARE Hazards. These include associated products such as custom maps, situation reports, damage assessments, and more.

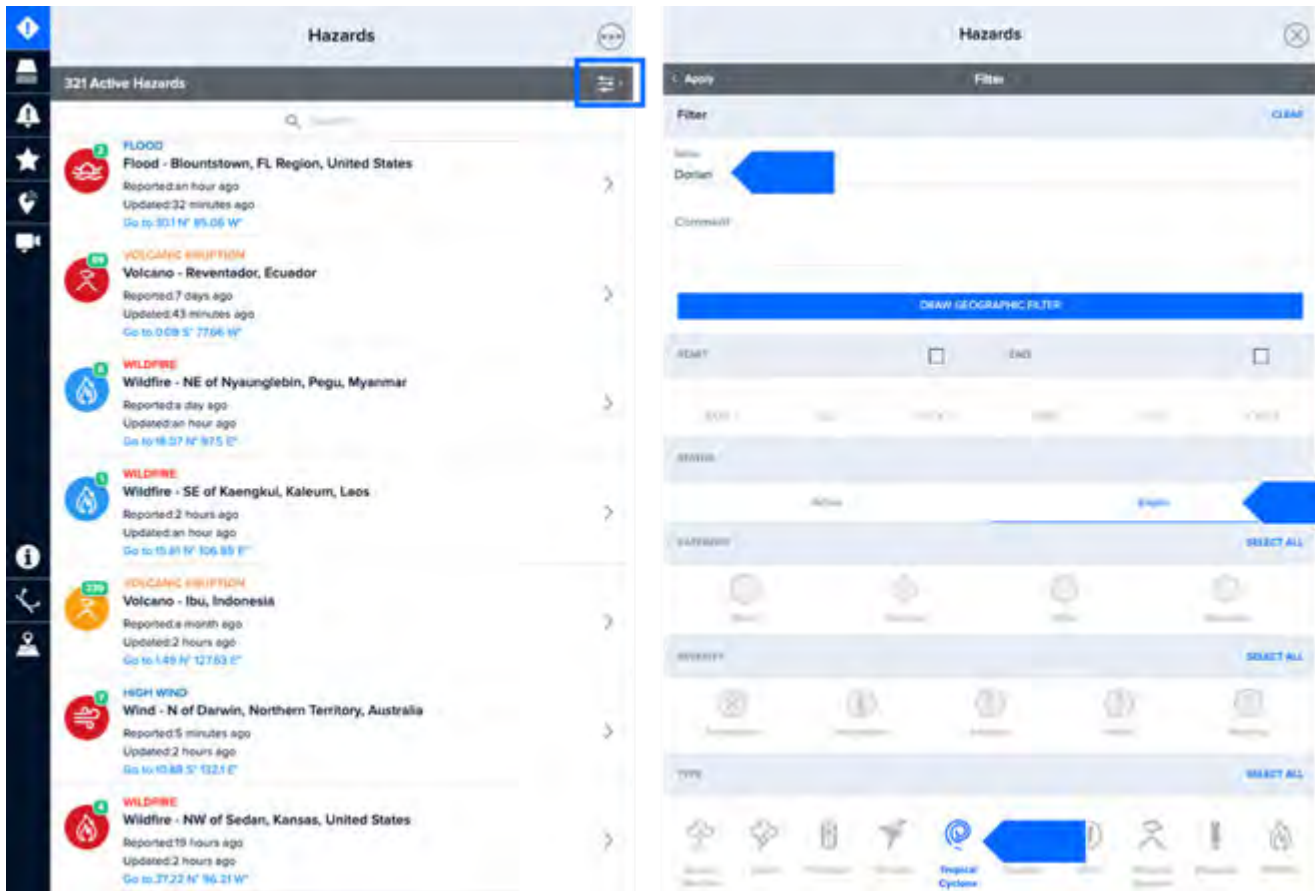


Click the **Hazard** icon on the left toolbar to open the hazards panel.



Next, click the **Filter** icon on the top right of the panel to use the **Advanced Hazard Search** feature. When searching for historical hazard information, be sure to turn off the **Active** button and turn on the **Expire** button.

If applicable, insert the **Name** of the hazard, a **Date** range, and/or **Types** of hazards you want to search.



## Disaster response events (current and historical)

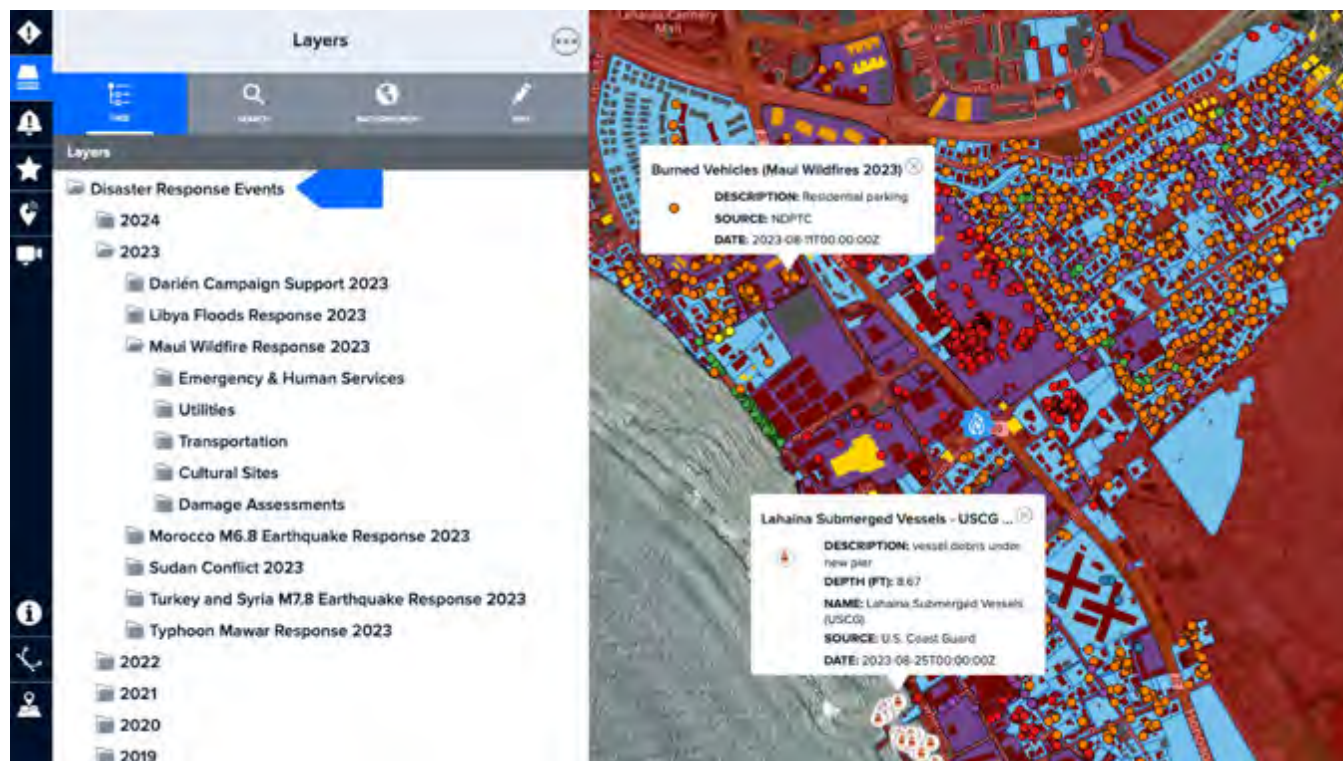
PDC stores data layers specific to major disasters for which it is providing support in the **Disaster Response Events** folder. This folder includes active and historical response events with information about hazard zones and impacts contributed by the international response community.



Click the **Layers** panel on the left toolbar.



Open **Disaster Response Events** subfolder to view all current and historical disaster response layers.



**Note:** Disaster Response Events layers are retained in DisasterAWARE to provide important insights about historical hazard events and their impacts, which is critical for planning for future events and preparedness exercises.

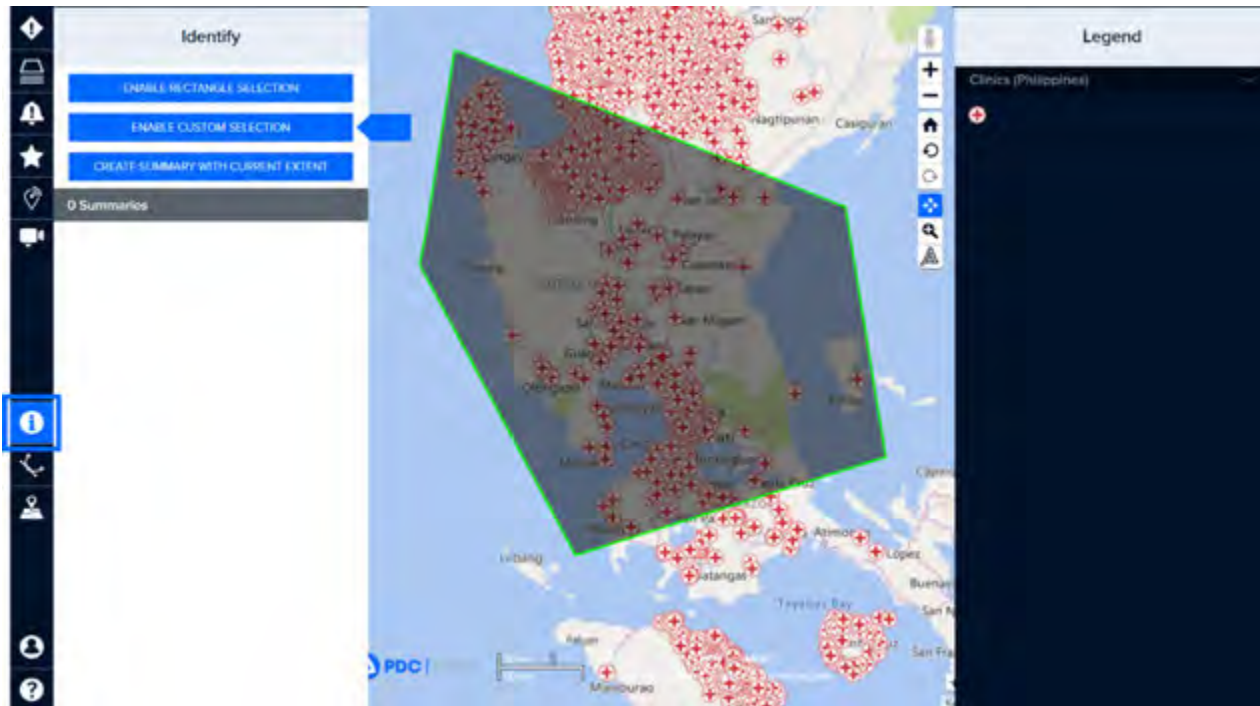


## Identify tool

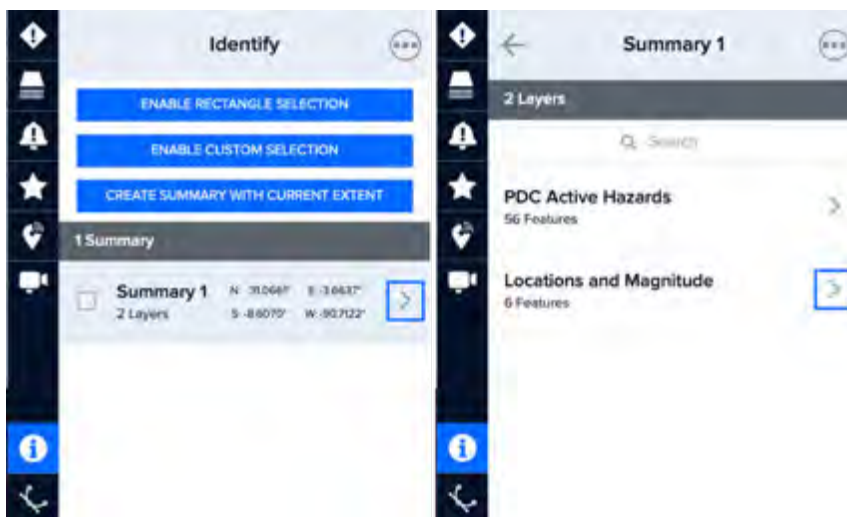
The **Identify tool** allows you to view the details of multiple layer features at once, rather than clicking on each individually on the map.



With the layers of interest displayed, click the **Identify** tool on the left toolbar. Next, choose from one of the two buttons shown below to select an area on the map.



After selecting an area on the map, you will see a **Summary** report listed in the **Identify** panel. Click the arrow located to the right of the **Summary** report to view data within the selected area. Summary reports will be automatically removed at the end of each session.



You will see the tabular data for the **Summary** report and may expand the panel to see more columns. You can also zoom the map to a record within the data table, as well as **Search** by keyword.



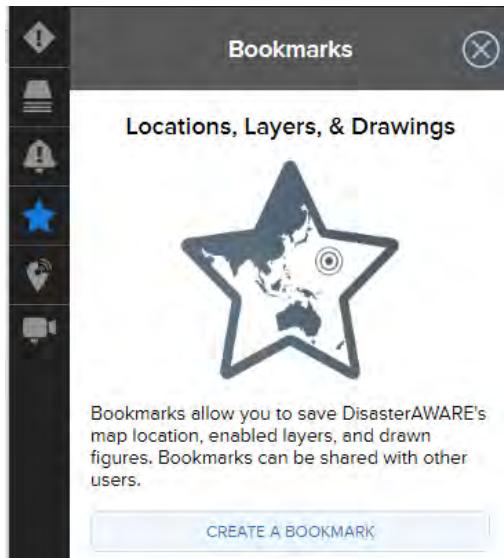
## Bookmark frequently used layers



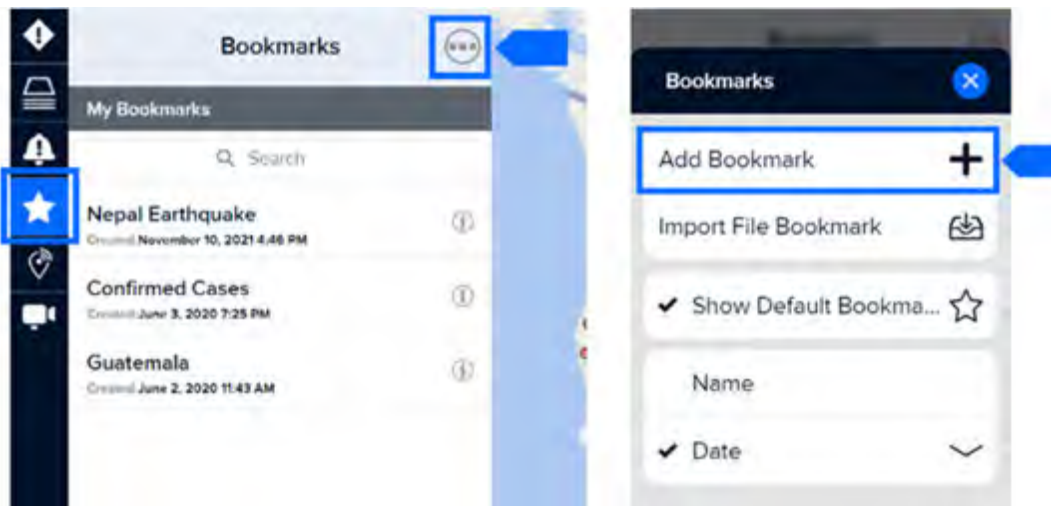
**Bookmarks** allow you to quickly save your map view and content, such as layers and drawings, and share it with other DisasterAWARE users to quickly convey critical information about an event for a common operating picture. Create a series of bookmarks, depicting data and places you monitor regularly, and add them to your daily checklist.

Click the **Bookmark** icon on the left toolbar to get started.

If this is your first time creating a **Bookmark** you will see the following view. Click on **Create a Bookmark**.

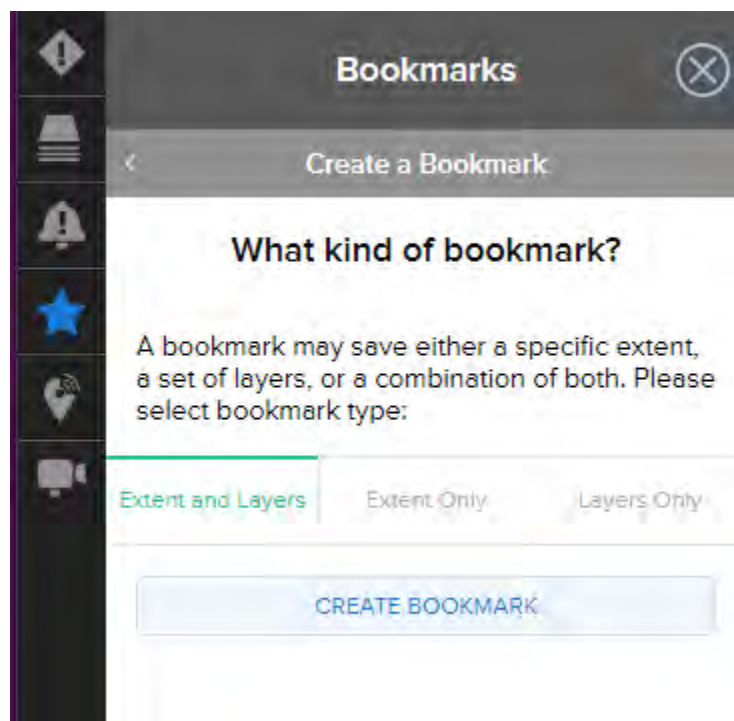


If you have created **Bookmarks before**, click on the three dots at the top of the Bookmark panel, followed by the **Add Bookmark +** option.

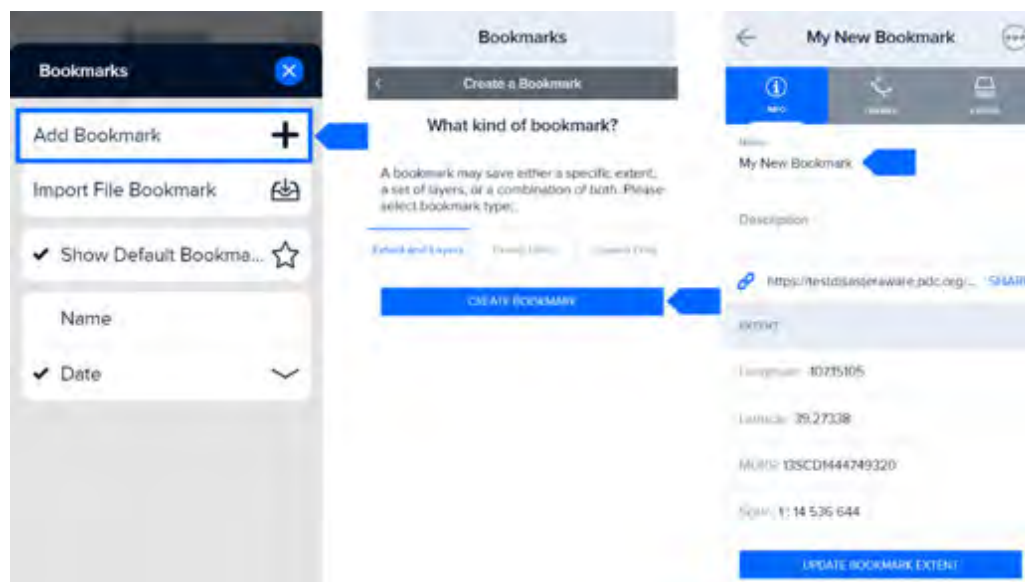


Next, select the kind of bookmark you would like to create.

- **Extent and Layers: (Recommended)** The current map extent and the visible layers will be bookmarked.
- **Extent Only:** Only your current map extent will be bookmarked.
- **Layers Only:** Only your visible layers will be bookmarked.



Be sure to name your bookmark something meaningful so it's easy to find at a later date.



The **Share** link shown above at right allows you to copy/paste the link and share your bookmark with other DisasterAWARE users.

**PRO  
TIP**

Bookmarks serve as an excellent, interactive alternative to briefing PowerPoint slides. You can automatically set your workspace default view to display the map area, zoom, and layers you want to view every time you log in. See the section titled *Customize your workspace*.



## Favorite and recent layers

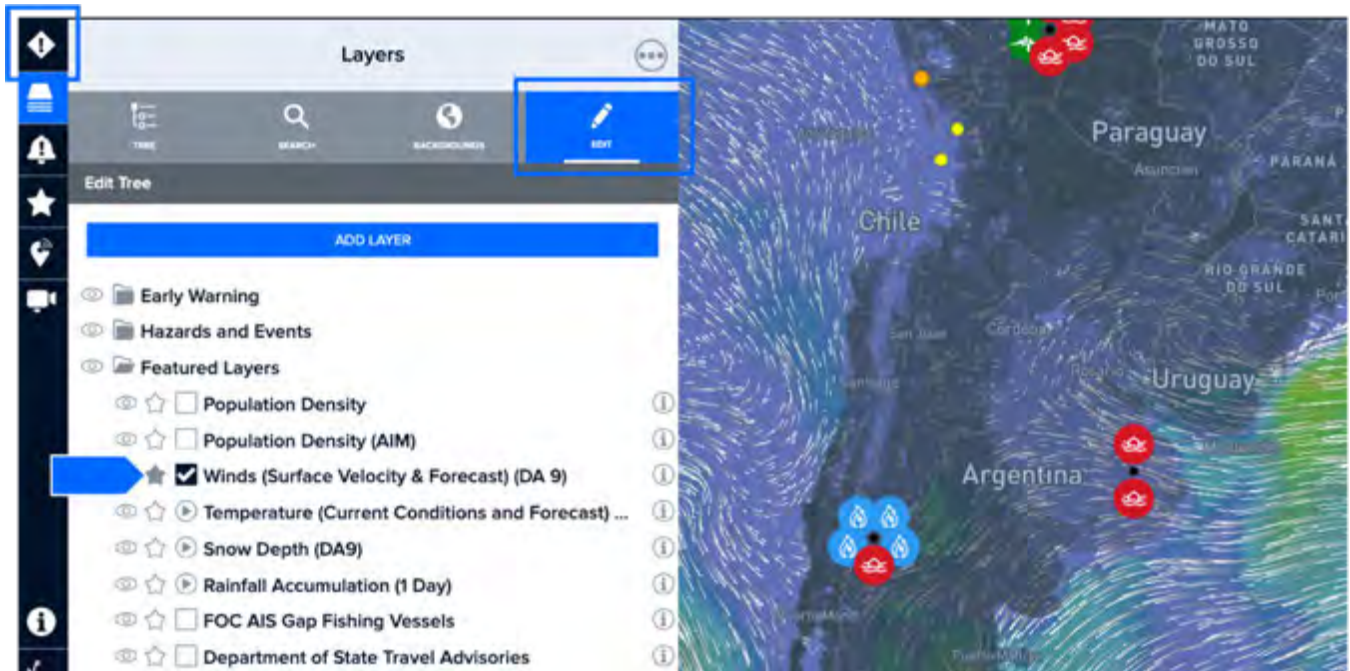
You can designate any layer as a favorite for quick access at a later date. This is useful for navigating to layers you need to visit frequently or for finding deeply nested layers you want to quickly return to at a later date.



Click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar and select the **Edit** tab.



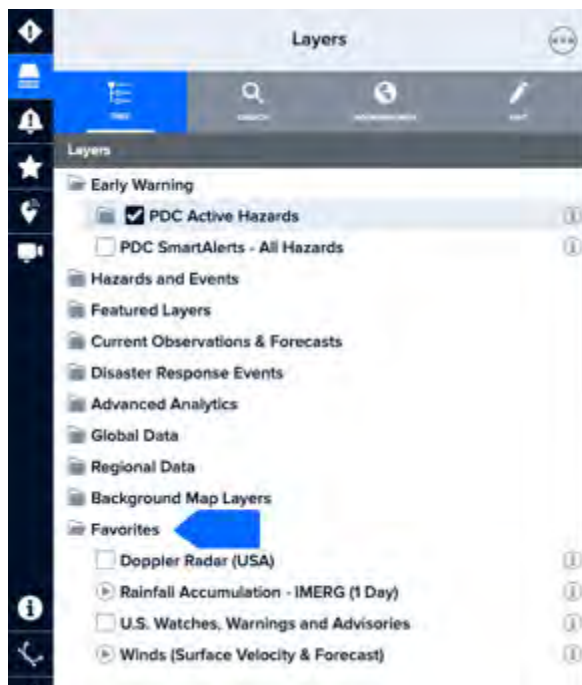
Select the star icon to the left of the layer you wish to favorite. Filled/dark stars represent your current selection of favorite layers.



**Show or hide layers:** You can also show or hide folders and layers you don't want to see by clicking the **Eye** icon.

To view your favorite layers, open the layers panel and scroll down to the **Favorites** folder as shown below. Above the Favorites folder is the Recent folder which allows you to view and return to the last ten layers you accessed from your account.





## CREATE CUSTOM MAPS

There are several options for creating customized maps in DisasterAWARE, including the ability to:

- Customize your background base map
- Import and display your own data layers
- Combine multiple layers into one map
- Add drawings, images, and text to your map

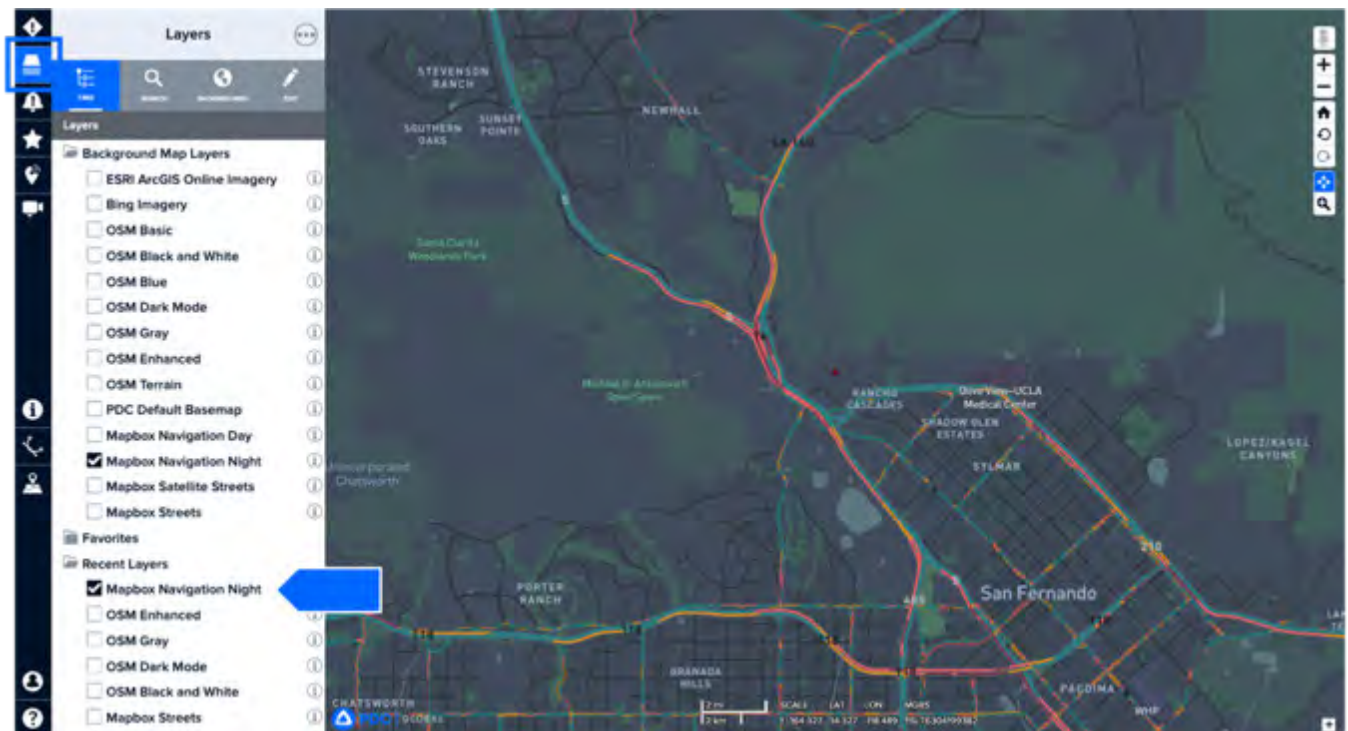
You can also upload and share content from outside sources including PDF map products, situation reports (SitReps), and other critical data to support informed decision making during a major disaster response event. Contact [response@pdc.org](mailto:response@pdc.org) for assistance with uploading files or refer to the section on *System Administration*.

## Change your default background map

DisasterAWARE comes with a variety of background maps that you can choose from. Below are just a few examples.



Click the **Layers** panel on the left toolbar and open the **Background Map Layers** folder. Check the option for the map theme you'd like to have displayed as your background map.

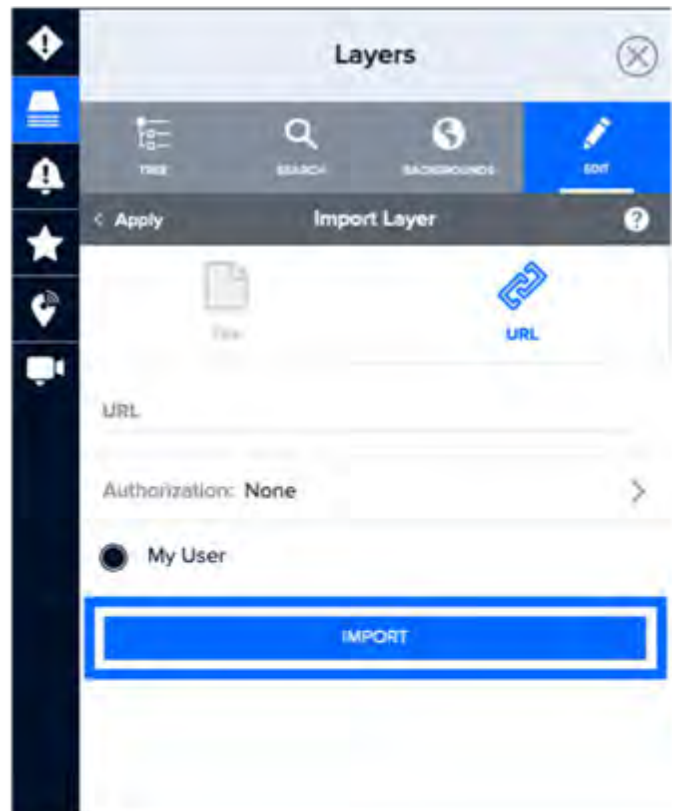
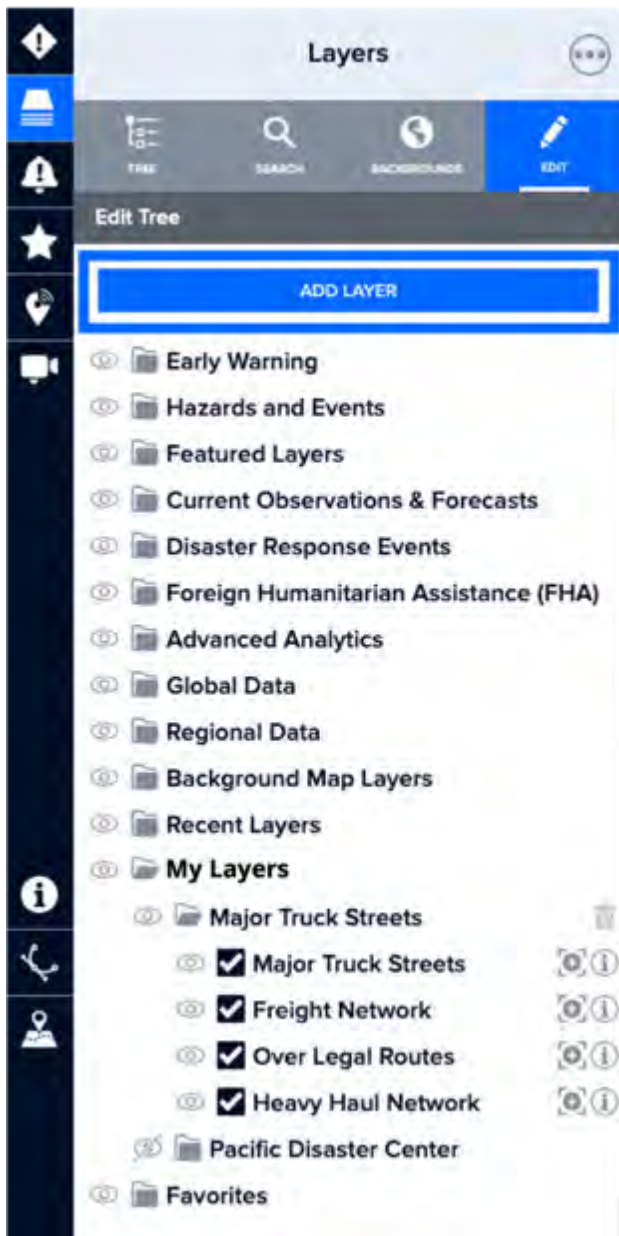


# Import and share your own data layers

## How to import data files



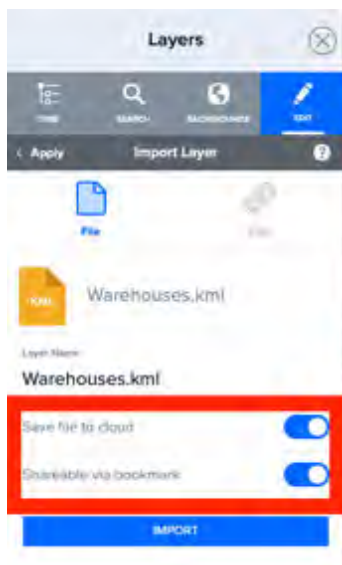
Want to import your own layers, such as a KML or Shapefile? Click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar and navigate to the **Edit** tab and then the **Add Layer** button.





Click the **File** option to import a KML or shapefile. Select the **Please choose the file** option and navigate to the external data file on your device. Then select **Import** and the data will now appear under the **My Layers** folder in the **Layers** panel. Note: Shapefiles must be zipped prior to import. Do not change the default name of the zipped file.

If you want to access your imported data in future sessions, be sure to select the **Save file to cloud** option. If you want to share it in a bookmark, be sure to also select the **Shareable via bookmark** option. Unless shared, imported KMLs and shapefiles are only viewable by you.



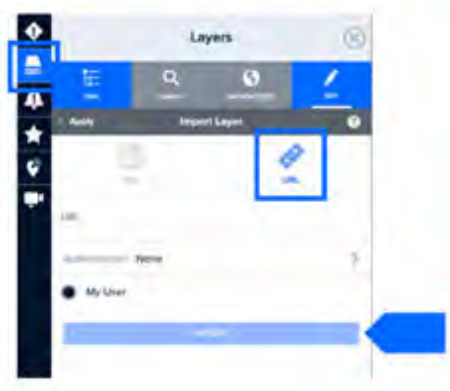
## How to import data from an external map service



You can also import external map services. Click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar and navigate to the **Edit** tab and then the **Add Layer** button.



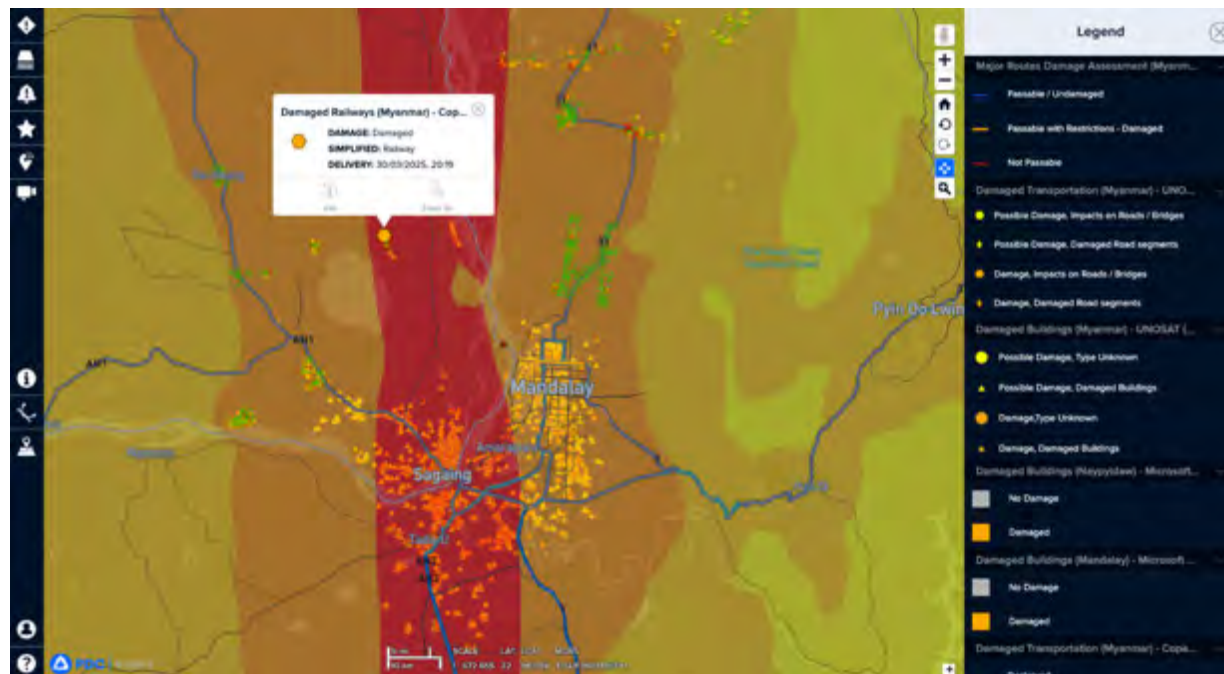
Click the **URL** icon to add public or authenticated map services from ArcGIS.com. If you need to include authentication, click the **Authorization** link shown below. You must then click the **Edit** icon and the “+” icon to add the web service link and authentication credentials. Imported map services will only be accessible by you.





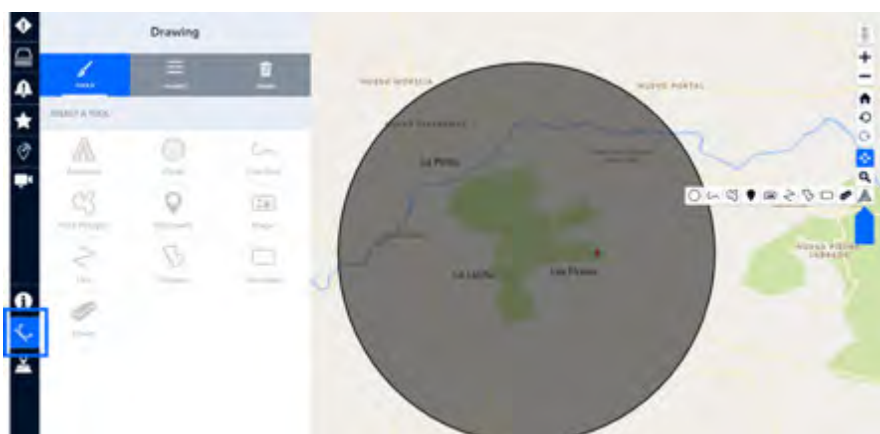
## Combine layers for more informed decision making

For example, you can display multiple layers at once to create a better understanding of potential exposure and impacts from a hazard, such as earthquake severity and the location of critical infrastructure. The example below shows that all schools in the impacted area have been exposed to severe ground shaking. These types of data combinations are critical for not only identifying key assets and population impacted, but also to show which areas may need to be prioritized for assistance and further assessment.



## Add drawings, text, and images to maps

Need to add your own information to the map, but are not a data or mapping expert? **Drawing** tools allow you to quickly add your own content such as preliminary damage and needs assessments, identification of staging areas, staffing and resources, areas and distances, and more. This section will equip you to do this, as well as walk you through how to export your custom drawings and share via Bookmarks.



### PRO TIP

You can quickly access drawing tools from the right toolbar under the pan and zoom tools while the **Drawing** panel is open. Click and hold the button shown above to easily switch between tools.



## Add objects and shapes to the map



Click the **Drawing** icon on the left toolbar to view a list of different objects and shapes you can add to the map. Select a tool, then click on the map where to place it.

If using the Circle or Rectangle tool, click and drag to expand it. Other tools, such as Line and Polygon require a double-click on the map to complete the drawing. The Free Line and Free Polygon tools require you to click+ hold while moving your cursor to draw, releasing upon completion.

Your drawings will be listed under the **Figures** tab and will be automatically removed after your session has ended, unless bookmarked.



### PRO TIP

You can create objects in outside programs like PowerPoint (such as the legend shown above) and import them with the **Image** tool. Under the imported images **Style** tab, select **Scale with Map** Zoom if you wish for the image to maintain its size in respect to the application screen. This is useful for imported icons, so they do not shrink or expand in size as you zoom out.

## Edit shape or object attributes

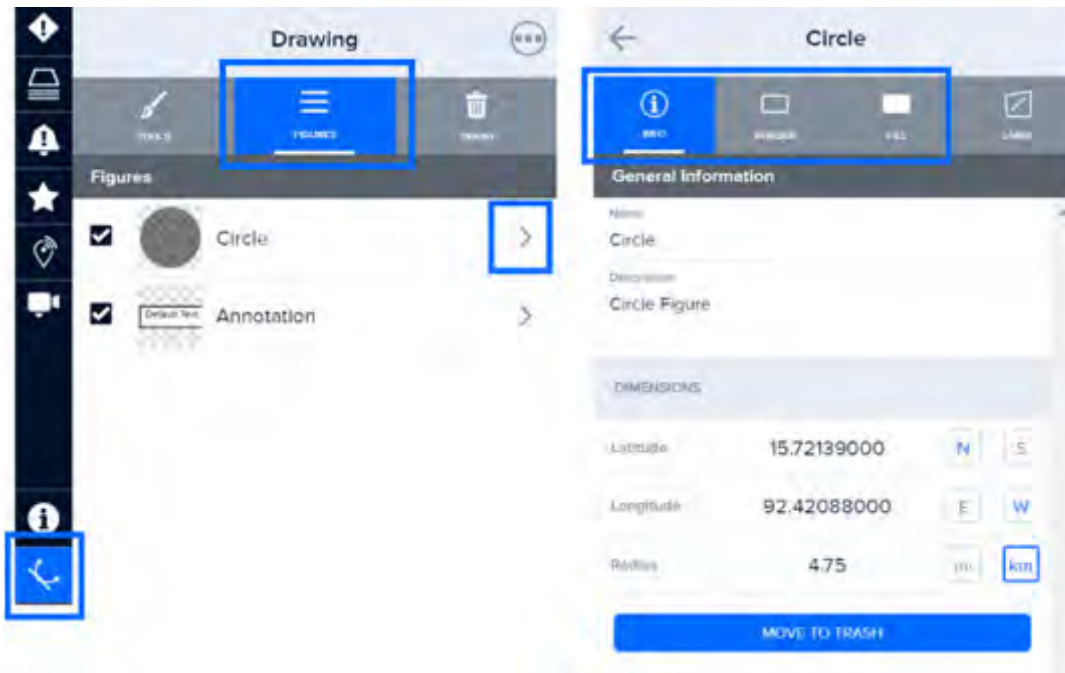
All tools include a set of attributes which can be accessed once a shape or object has been added to the map.



Click the **Figures** tab in the **Drawing** panel then select the shape you want to edit or click an object you've added to the map to view its attributes in the drawing panel.

**Info** allows users to label drawings, which helps you to quickly identify it in the **Figures** list. It also allows you to add critical details describing the drawings (e.g. damage classification, facility contact, field team status, etc.).

**Border** and **Fill** allow you to assign a color, as well as adjust transparency.

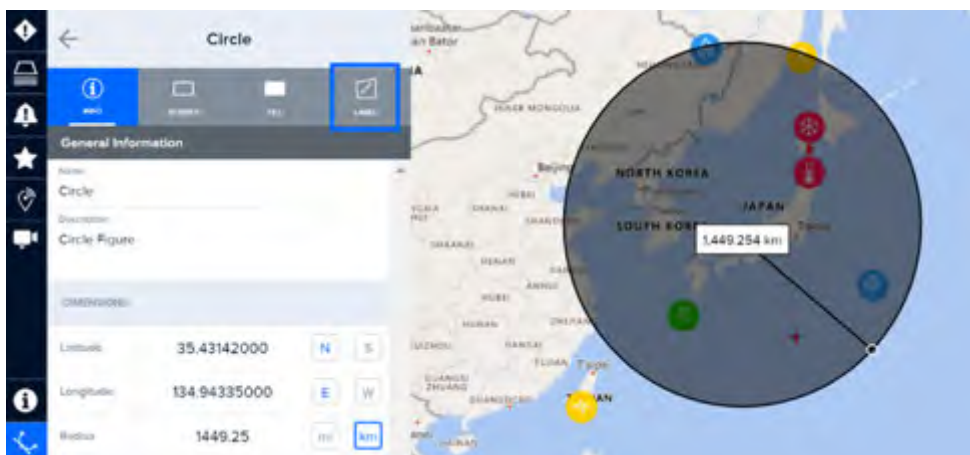


## Measure distance and area with shapes

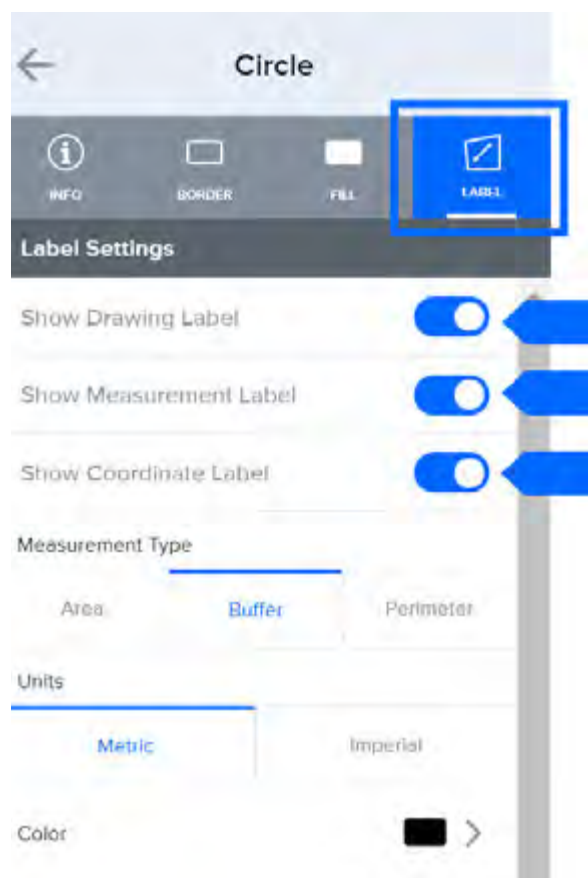


**Label** allows you to display the drawings label (added under Info). For circles, polygons, rectangles and lines, this option also allows you to measure length and area.

Add a **circle**, **polygon**, **rectangle** or **line** to the map. Click to edit object and then choose the **Label** tab in the drawing panel.



Toggle the attributes below to show the shape measurement and label, or to adjust other preferences like unit of measure, colors, and more.



**PRO  
TIP**

The **Measurement Label** feature is very useful for measuring the length of a runway in support of relief operations, as well as measuring open space (e.g. an open field) in support of mass care.

## Add place markers to the map

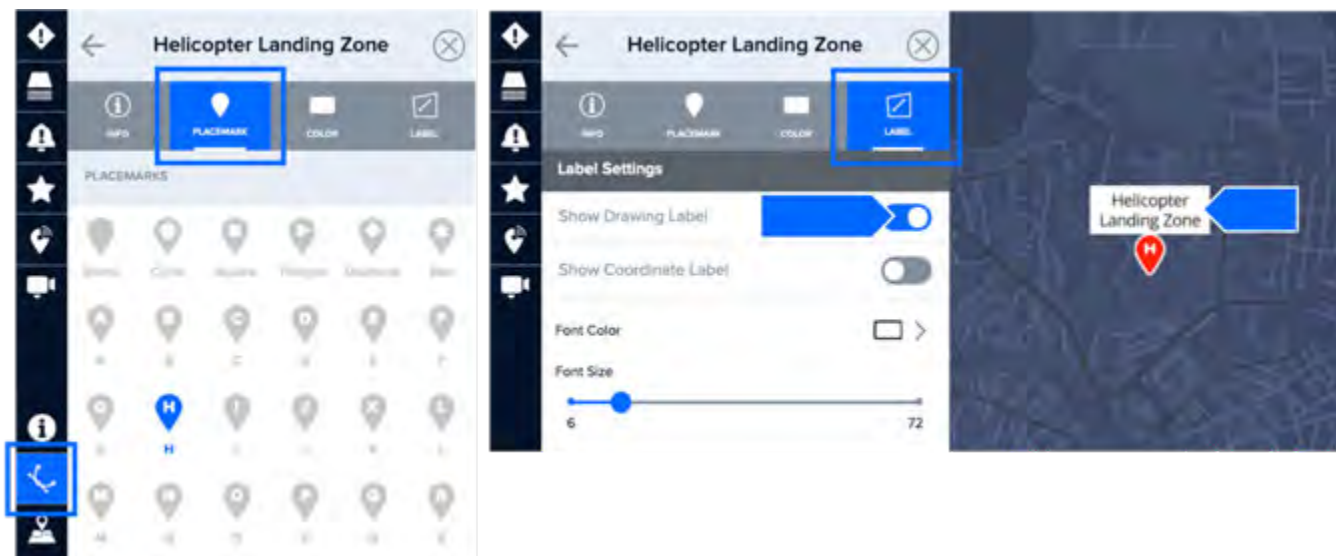


With the **Drawing** panel open, click the **Placemark** tool and then click on the map to add.

Under the **Placemark** tab, choose from one of many different styles of place markers. Click the **Info** and **Color** tabs to adjust the name and color of the placemark.



You can also display the placemark's name (Drawing Label) and coordinates on the map by enabling those options under the **Label** tab.

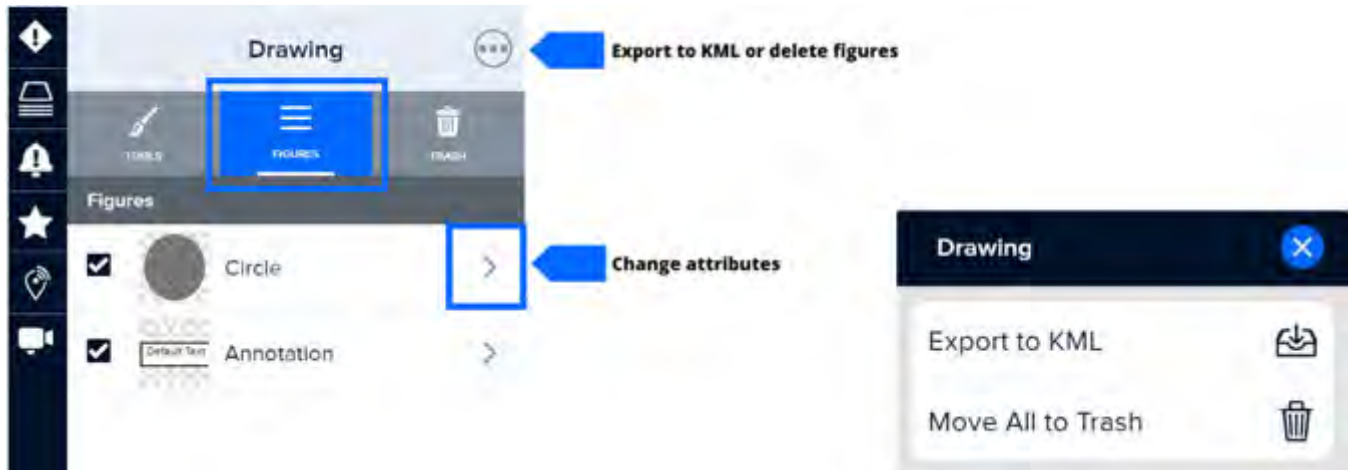


## Export or delete map drawings

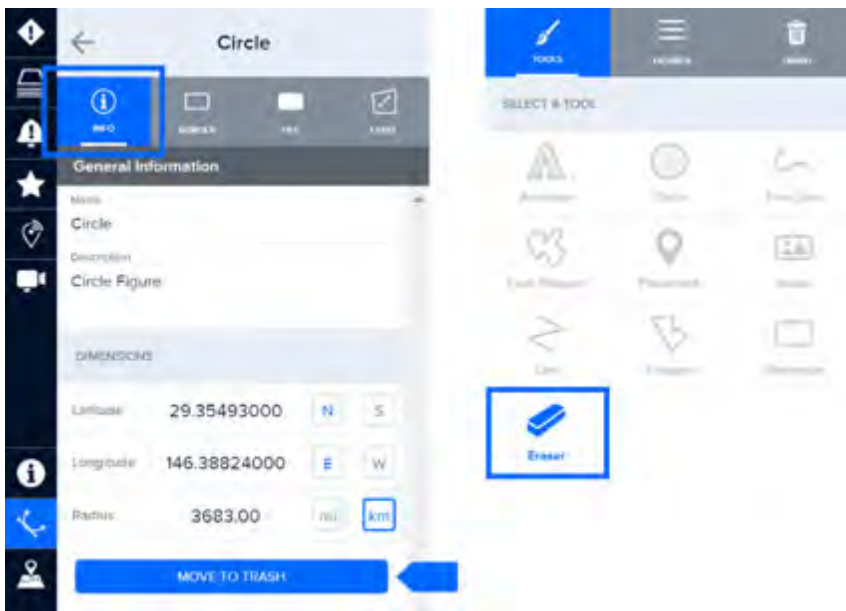


Click the **Drawing** icon from the left toolbar and then the **Figures** tab to change the attributes of a figure you've created or export your figures as a KML data file.

To **export figures** you've created, check the box next to the figures you wish to export and then the three dots at the top of the panel, followed by **Export to KML**. You can also **delete figures** by clicking the three dots and then **Move All to Trash**.



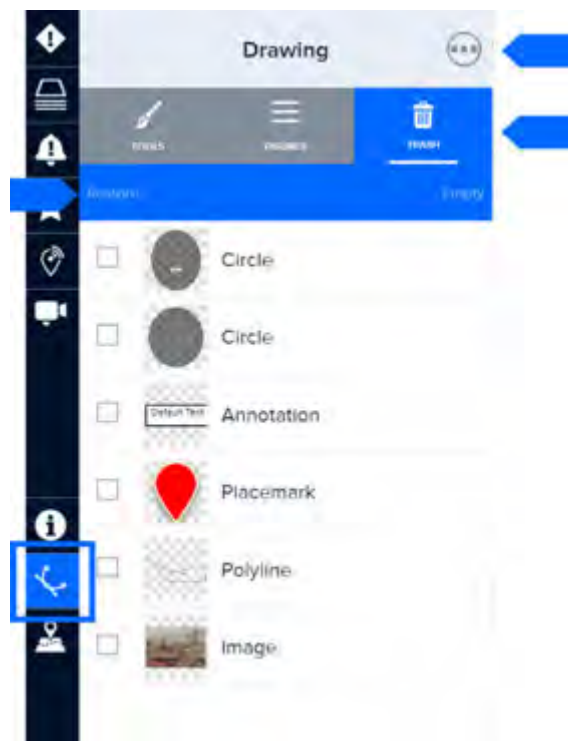
You can also remove drawings from the map by clicking the drawing with the **Drawing** panel open and selecting the **Info** tab, then the **Move to Trash** button. Alternately, click the **Eraser** tool located in the **Drawing** panel and then click an object on the map to erase it.





## Restore erased shapes and objects

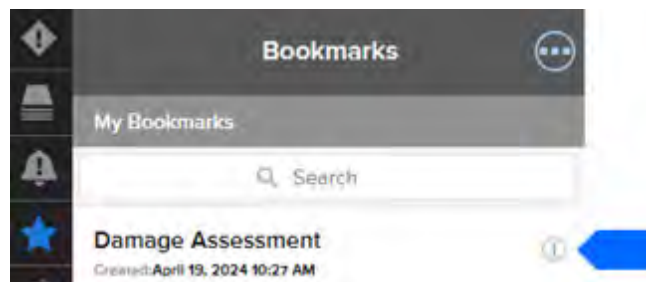
While in the **Drawing** panel, click the **Trash** tab. You will see a list of figures you've deleted. Check the item you wish to restore and then the restore link. You can also empty the trash bin of all deleted objects from this menu.



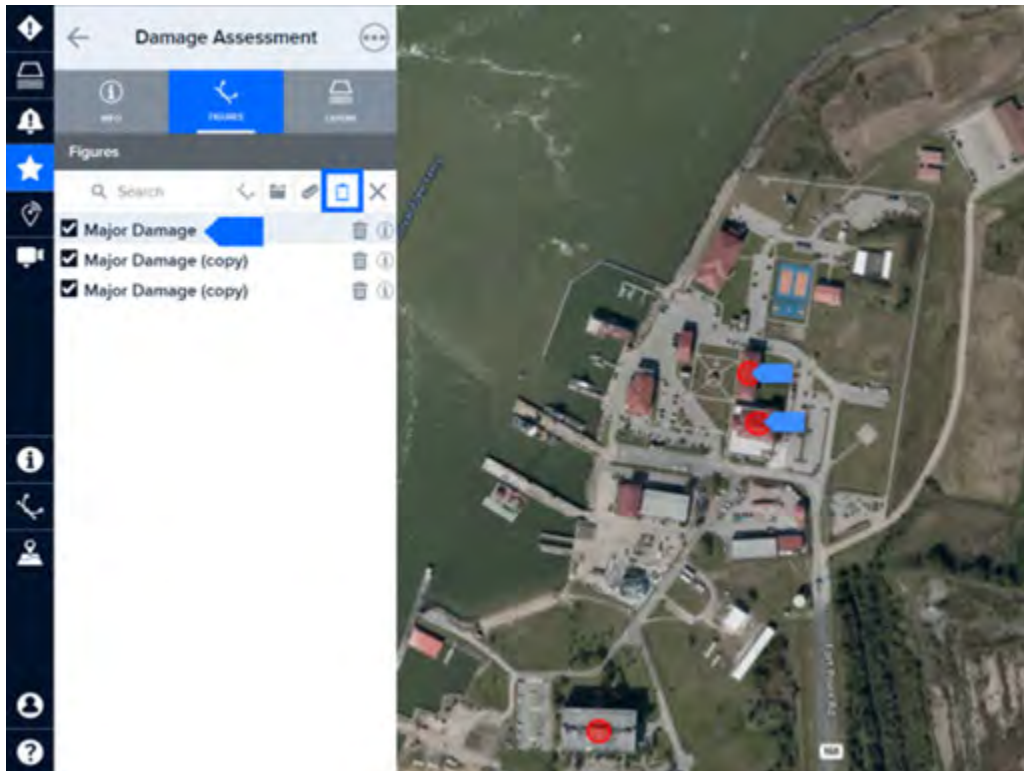
## Copy figures

The **Copy** option is available for Bookmarks that include drawings and very useful when you need to recreate the same drawing multiple times, such as adding the same color dot to multiple structures on the imagery basemap, representing the same level of assessed damage.

First, open the **Bookmarks** panel and locate your bookmark that includes drawings. Then, select the information button to the right of that bookmark and click on the **Features** tab.



To copy, enable **Edit** mode and then click on the figure in the list you wish to copy. Click on the map to add a copy of that figure. Additional copies of that figure will appear on the map with each consecutive click until you deselect the **Copy** option.



## Print maps

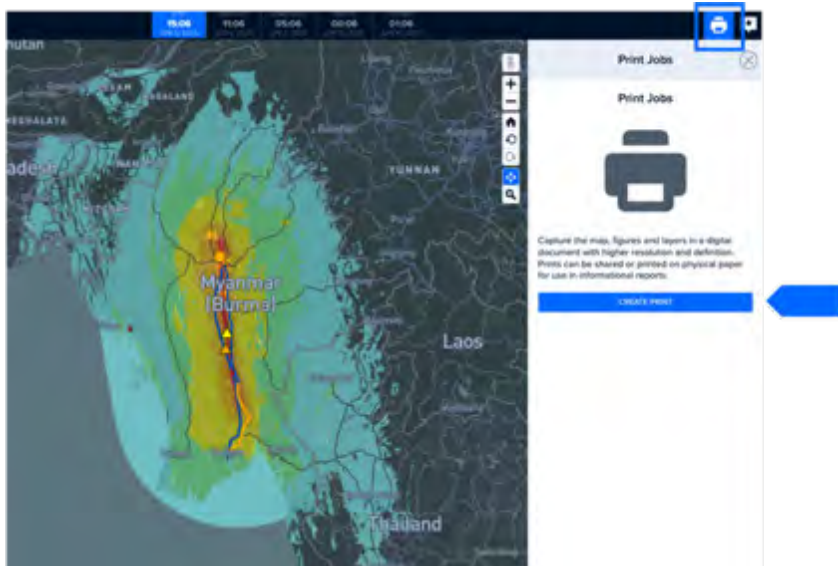
DisasterAWARE not only provides quick and easy ways to create custom maps, without having to be a GIS expert, it also provides a stylized, professional map template and multiple export options (e.g. PDF, PNG, and JPEG).

### Create a printable map



To get started, select the **Print** feature next to the Legend icon at the top right of corner of the application.

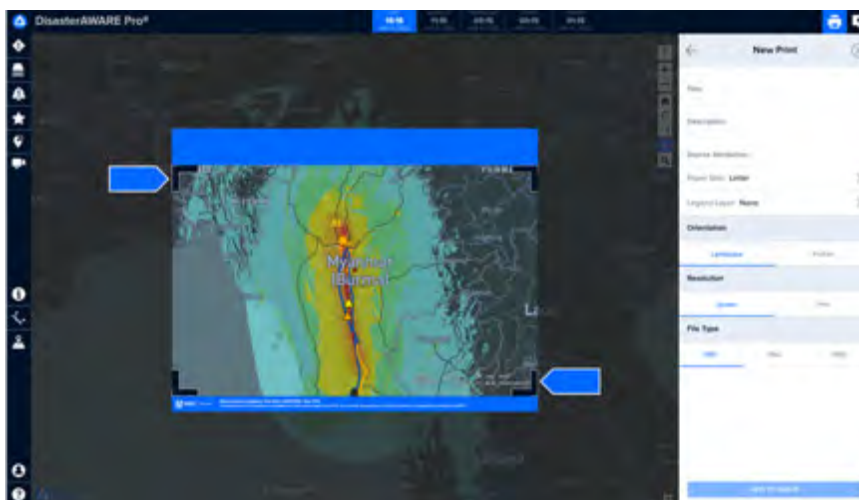
Next, select the **Create Print** option in the **Print Jobs** panel.



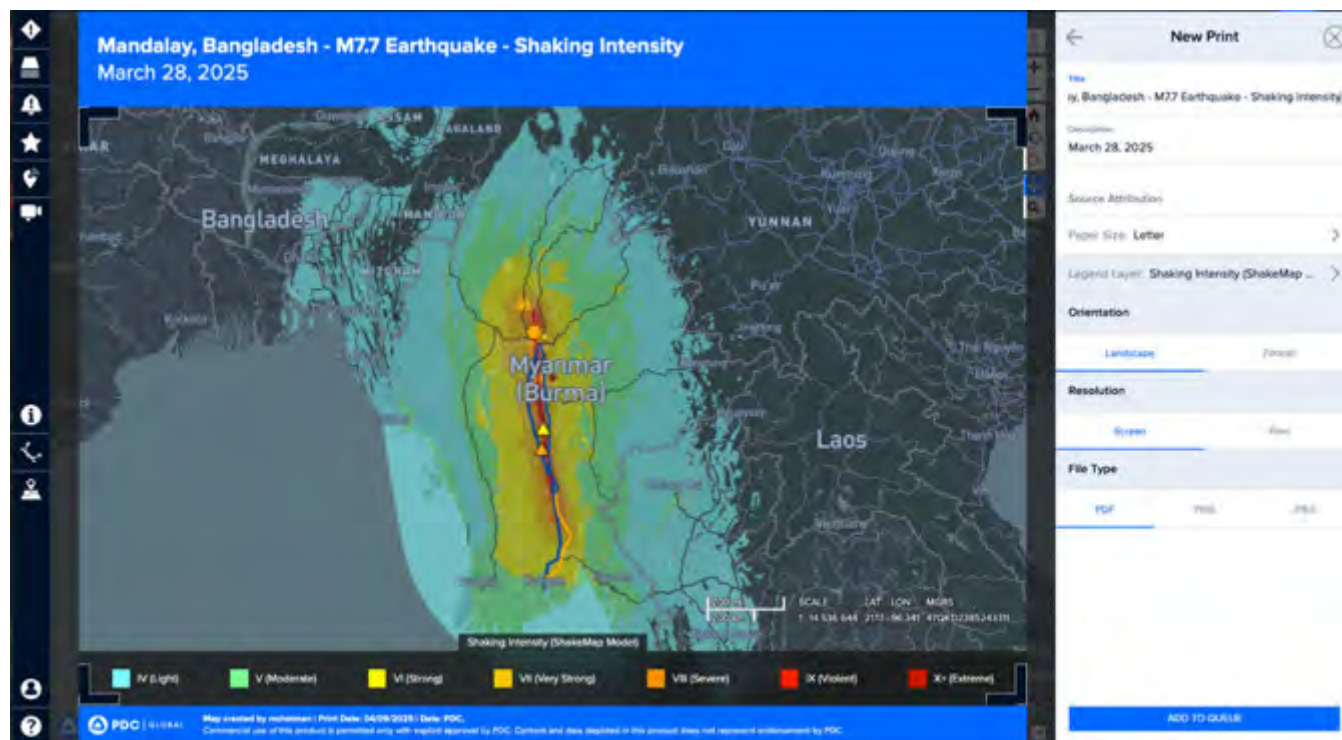
### Define your print preferences

The Print feature provides multiple settings that allow you to customize the output of your print. These include a resizable map frame, customizable title and description, a selection of standard paper sizes, optimized resolution for on-screen viewing or printing, and file type to be output.

First, set the size area of the map to be printed. You can adjust the print area by clicking and dragging the **frame handles** shown below.



Next, enter map details such as the title you would like to have displayed in the banner, description, and other details shown below. Click on the **Legend Layer** option to select and display the legend for one of the layers included in your Print.



**New Print**

Title ➔ Add a **Title** to your map.

Description ➔ The **Description** will appear under your Title.

Source Attribution ➔ Be sure to list the **Data Sources** displayed.

Paper Size: Letter > ➔ Select your preferred **Paper Size**.

Legend Layer: None >

**Orientation**

Landscape Portrait ➔ Change the **Orientation** of the map frame.

**Resolution**

Screen Print ➔ Optimize the **Resolution** for how you will view or share the product.

**File Type**

PDF PNG JPEG ➔ Export as **PDF, PNG, or JPEG**.

**ADD TO QUEUE**

## Download your map for printing

Once you have entered your print details as described above, you can now download your print. Within the same Print panel, select the **Add to Queue** button as depicted in the screenshot above.

Your print will appear in the Prints list. When it finishes processing, select the blue arrow next to the print you want to download.

**Print Jobs** Filter to view Prints created in the last 24 or 72 hours.

Number of Prints available. **1 Print**

Search

Click to **Download**. ➔ **Tropical Cyclone Niran** ➔ View print **Status** and **Expiration Time**.

Status: Ready to download  
Download expires: in a month

### PRO TIP

Prints that you have created will expire from the system within 30 days. It is recommended that you download all prints to your local environment to maintain an historical record.



## BOOKMARK AND SHARE INFORMATION

### Bookmark and share your drawings

Bookmark your drawings and custom maps to save them and share with other users. This is useful for shared situational awareness and quickly communicating critical information.

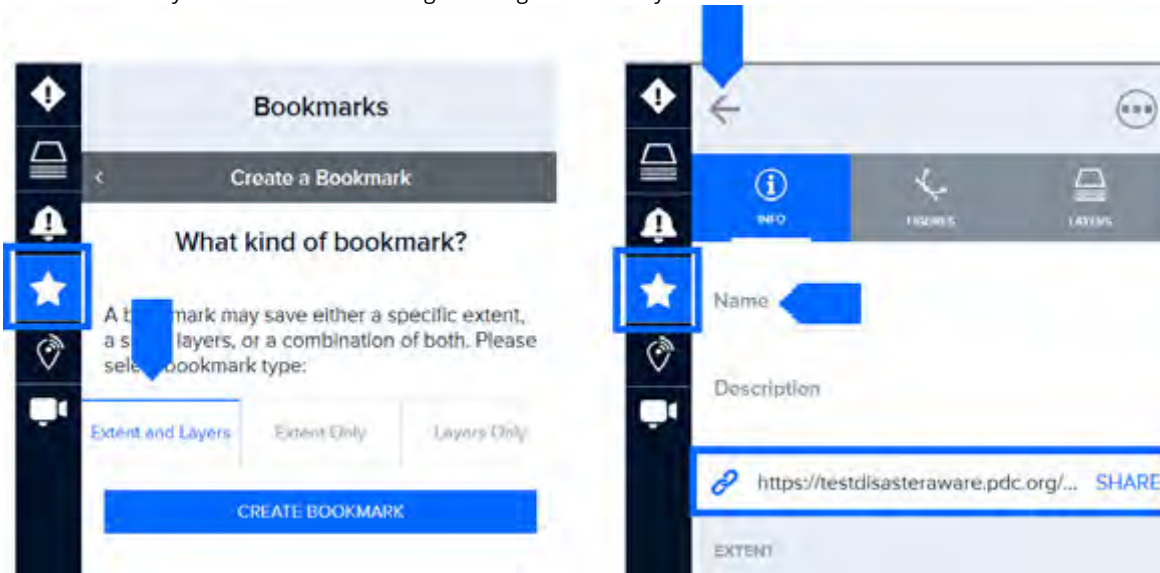


Click the **Bookmark** icon on the left toolbar and then click the three dots at the top of the bookmark panel.



After clicking the three dots shown above, select **Add Bookmark** and choose the layer preferences you'd like to save. By selecting the **Extents and Layers** option shown below, you will ensure the full frame and content of your current map is saved.

Be sure to name your bookmark something meaningful so it's easy to find at a later date.



The **Share** link shown above allows you to copy/paste the link and share your bookmark with other DisasterAware users.

#### PRO TIP

Bookmarks serve as an excellent, interactive alternative to briefing PowerPoint slides. You can automatically set your workspace default view to display the map area, zoom, and layers you want to view every time you login. See the section titled *Customize your workspace*.

**Want to save your current Hazard filters for later viewing?** Simply enable the PDC Active Hazard layers you wish to include, as well as apply any additional filters via the Hazard panel's Filter tool and create a Bookmark. Those hazard filters will be saved to that Bookmark for quick access at any time.

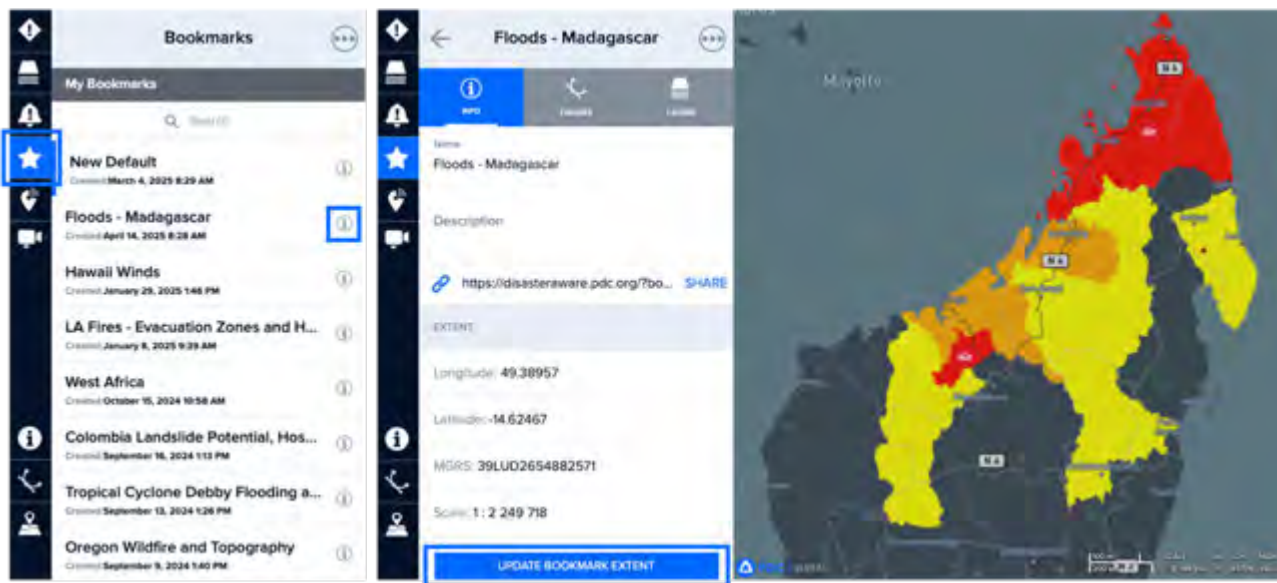
## Edit bookmarks

It's often helpful to be able to edit a bookmark you've shared with new updates from the field. For instance, you may want to add additional drawings that delineate assessed structures, or a change in status (e.g. planned assessment areas, completed assessments).

### Change bookmark extent



While in the **Bookmarks** panel, click the **Info** icon next to the name of a bookmark you want to update. Zoom or re-center the map and then select the **Update Bookmark Extent** button. Your bookmark will now open to the updated extent when revisited.

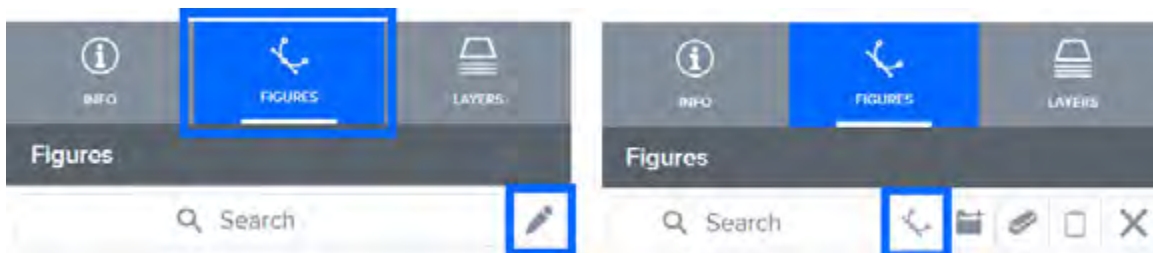


### Add figures to an existing bookmark

You can add drawings, photos, text annotations and other figures to a bookmark you've already created. Click the **Info** icon next to the bookmark you want to edit. While in the **Bookmarks** panel, click the **Figures** tab.



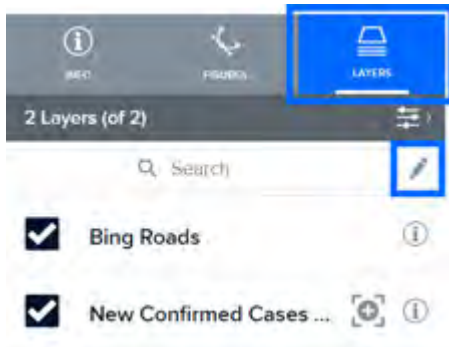
Once in the **Figures** panel, click the **Edit** icon. Next, click the **Drawing** icon to add a figure. You can organize figures into folders by clicking the folder icon, and then dragging and dropping the figures into the folder.



## Add layers to an existing bookmark



You can add or change **Layers** in an existing bookmark. Click the **Info** icon next to the bookmark you want to edit. While in the **Bookmarks** panel, click the **Layers** tab and then the **Edit** icon as shown below.



## View and manage your bookmarks

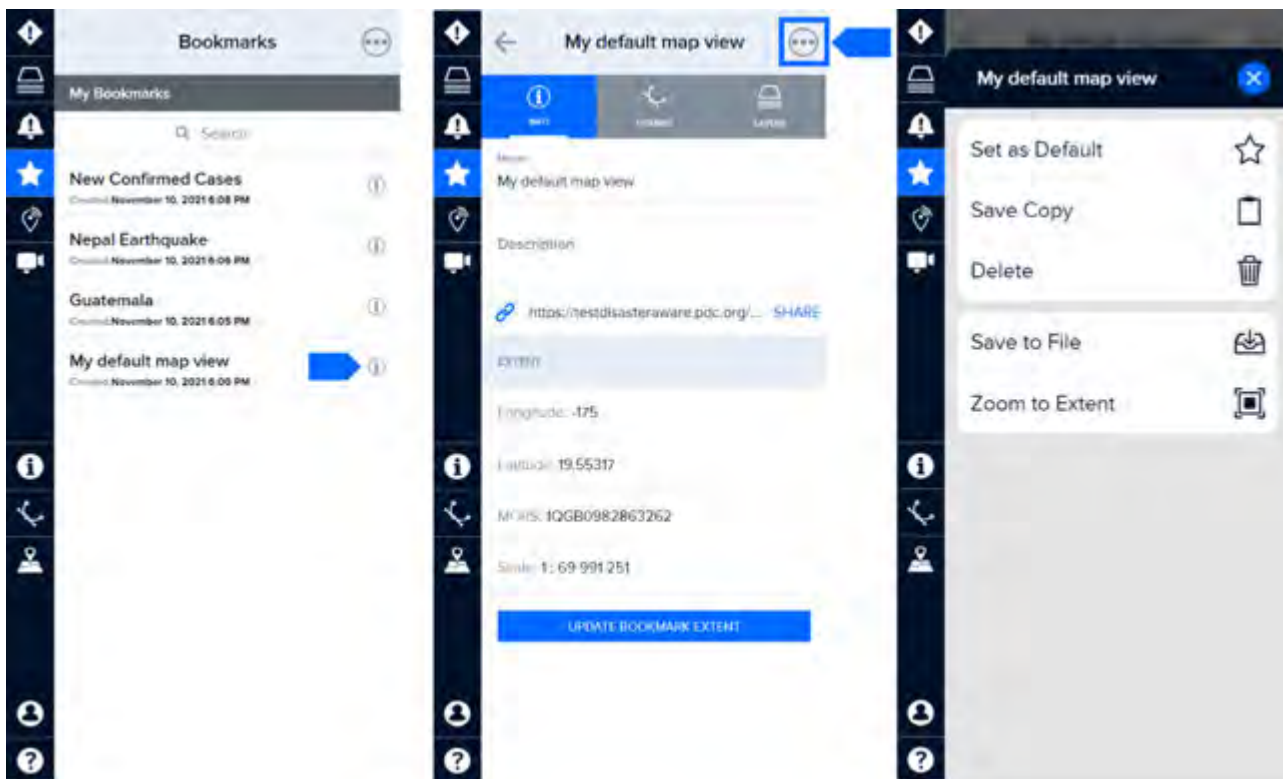


To view your list of bookmarks, edit the name of a bookmark, delete or export a bookmark, or to locate the URL of a bookmark you've already created, click the **Bookmark** icon on the left toolbar to view your list of bookmarks.



Click the **Info** icon to the right of the bookmark name in your bookmarks list to copy/paste the bookmark link. This icon also provides helpful information about the map extent, and layers activated.

Follow prompts below to delete, duplicate, or share a bookmark as a JSON file that can be imported into another person's account.



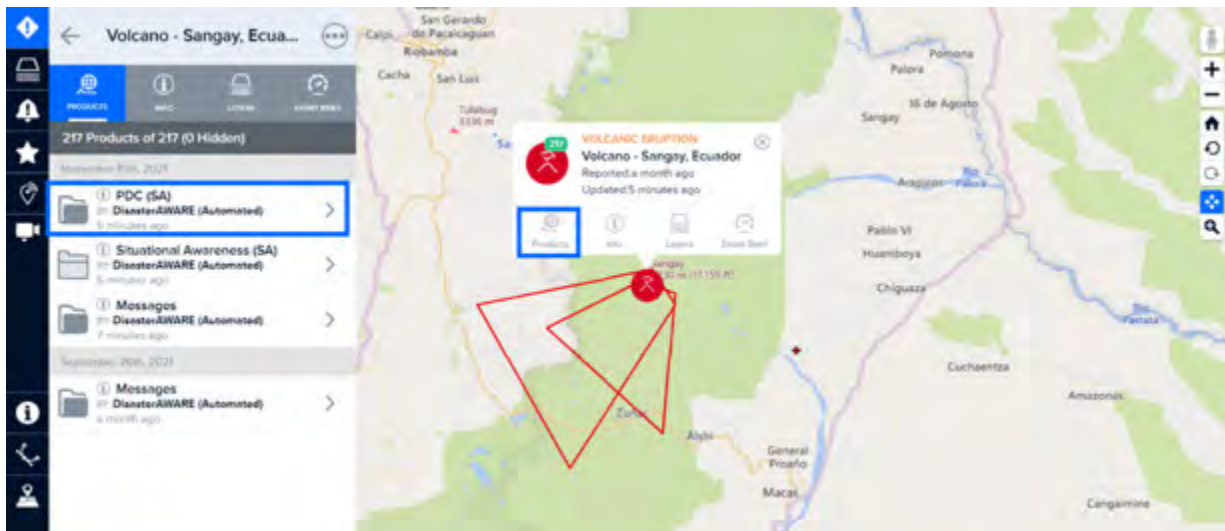
Use the **Search** option in the **Bookmarks** panel to locate bookmarks by keyword.

## Share your products in DisasterAWARE

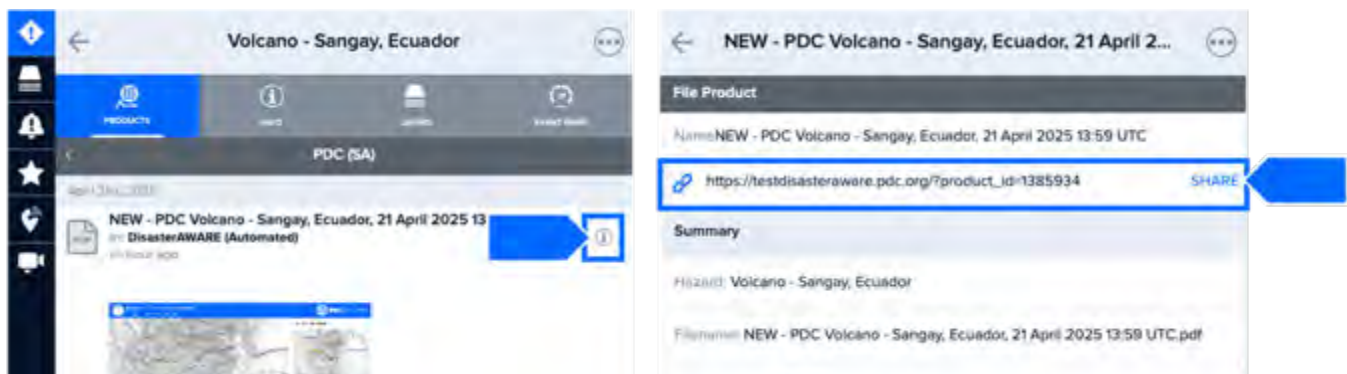
Users with administrative privileges have the ability to add and edit hazard products in DisasterAWARE, such as a File (e.g. photo, map, SitRep, report) and URLs (e.g. link to website or bookmark URL). To learn more about administrative capabilities see the section on *System Administration*. If you do not have administrator privileges, but wish to share a product, contact [response@pdc.org](mailto:response@pdc.org) to have your file uploaded to the system.

### Sharing an existing hazard product

You can share any product associated with a hazard in the system by clicking a **Hazard** icon on the map and then the **Products** link from the map tooltip. Navigate to the products folder of interest.



Once you have identified a product you wish to share, click the **Info** icon. Then copy/paste the link provided to share with other authorized users (requires log in).





## CUSTOMIZE YOUR WORKSPACE

There are several options for customizing your DisasterAWARE workspace and experience:

- Choose custom language preferences and time zones (see section on *Account, language, and time zone preferences*).
- Change the default background map, zoom extent, and visible layers.
- Customize your layers panel.

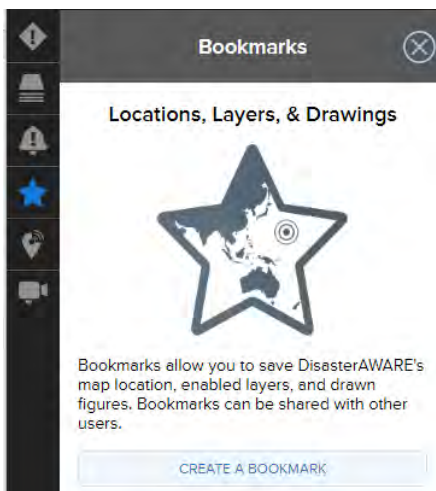
### Customize your default map view

You can customize the default map view so when you login into the system it appears with the desired background map, zoom extent, and the visible layers. To learn more about customizing maps, see the section above on how to *Create custom maps*.

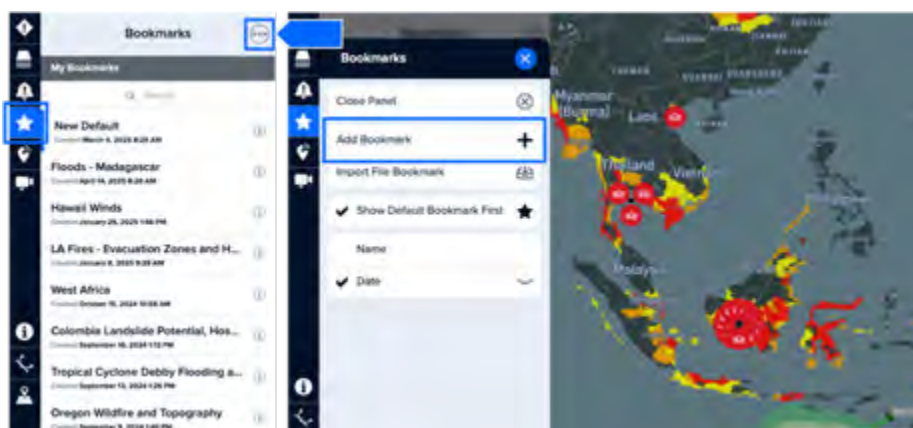


Once you have your map set up the way you want it to appear at each login, click the **Bookmark** icon on the left toolbar. Next, follow the steps for creating a bookmark in the section titled *Bookmark frequently used layers*.

If this is your first time creating a **Bookmark** you will see the following view. Click on **Create a Bookmark**.



If you have created **Bookmarks before**, click on the three dots at the top of the Bookmark panel, followed by the **Add Bookmark +** option.



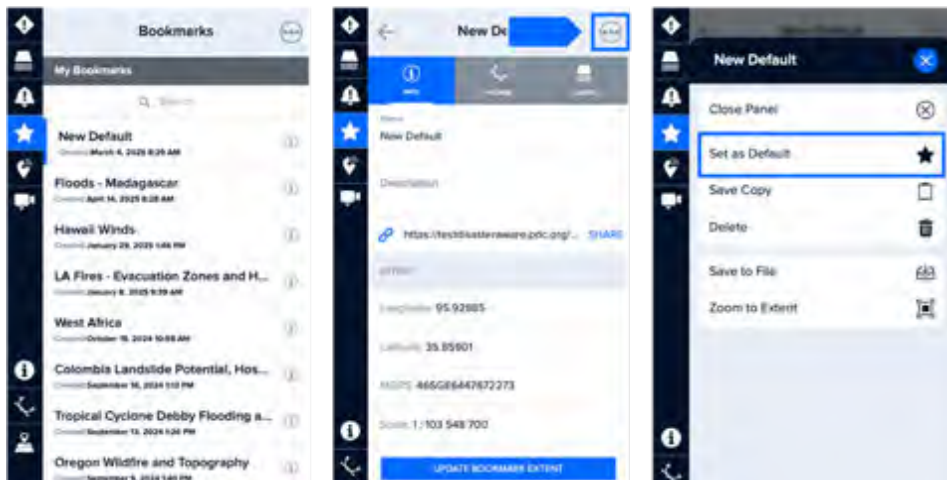
Choose the **Extents and Layers** option, **Create Bookmark** button, and give your new default bookmark an easily identifiable name like "Default map." Learn more about creating bookmarks in the section *Bookmark and share information* above.



Once your default map bookmark has been created, you are now ready to assign the bookmark to your default map view.



Click the **Bookmark** icon from the left toolbar, and then choose the bookmark you just created. Select the three dots from the upper right panel and choose Set as Default. Your default bookmark will now be the view you see each time you login to the system.



Note: You can also set the bookmark you have created by clicking the User icon from the left toolbar, selecting the Bookmark option, and then choosing a bookmark from the list.

## Customize your layers list

DisasterAWARE provides you with access to thousands of layers specific to hazards and geographies around the world. If you want to narrow your list of visible folders and / or layers, you can simply hide them from the Layers list. This only hides them on your account, and they can be unhidden at any time.



Click the **Layers** icon from the left toolbar and select the **Edit** tab.



Click the **Eye** icon to show or hide folders or specific layers.



## ADVANCED MONITORING TOOLS AND CAPABILITIES

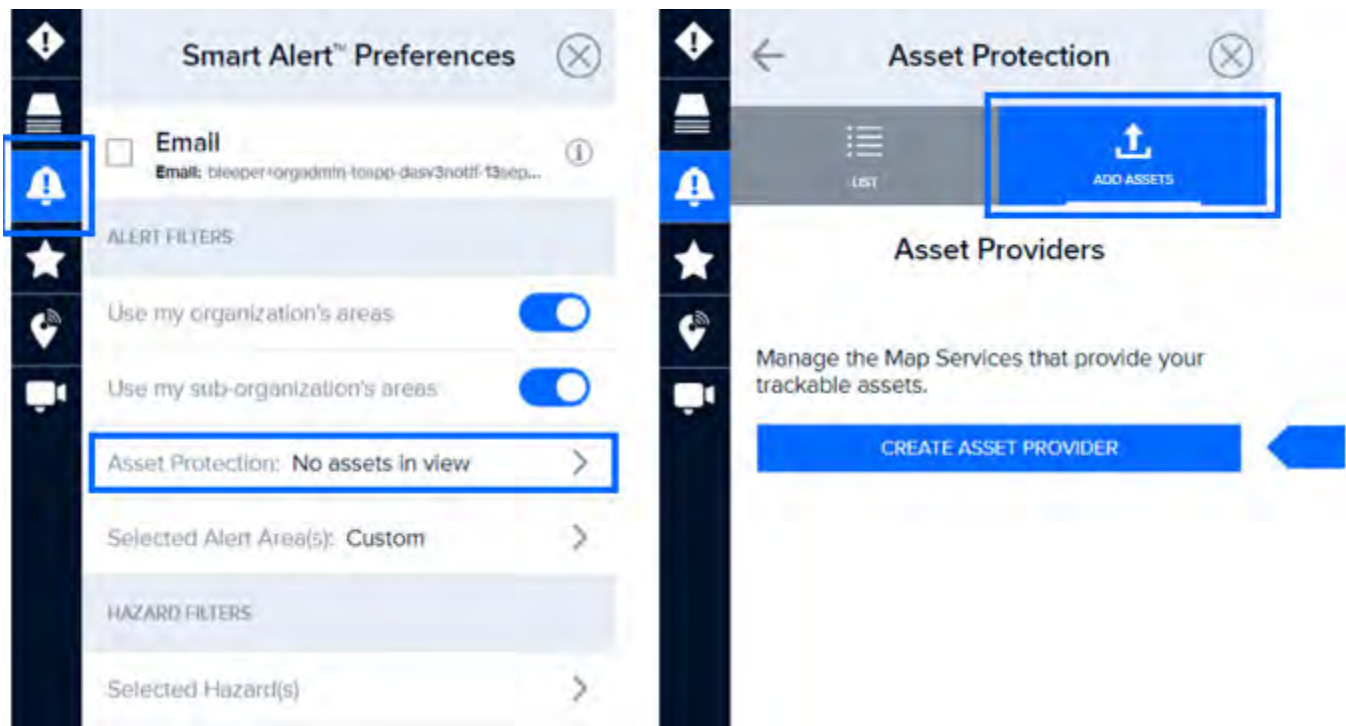
### Monitor and protect the safety of your assets

Protect your stationary or moving assets (such as buildings, personnel, or goods in transit), and receive alerts when a hazard poses a threat.

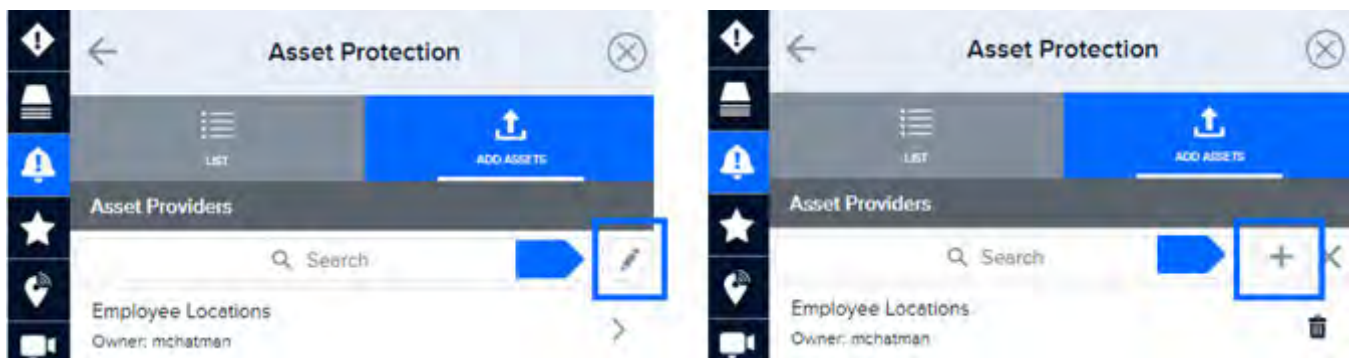
#### Import assets to be monitored



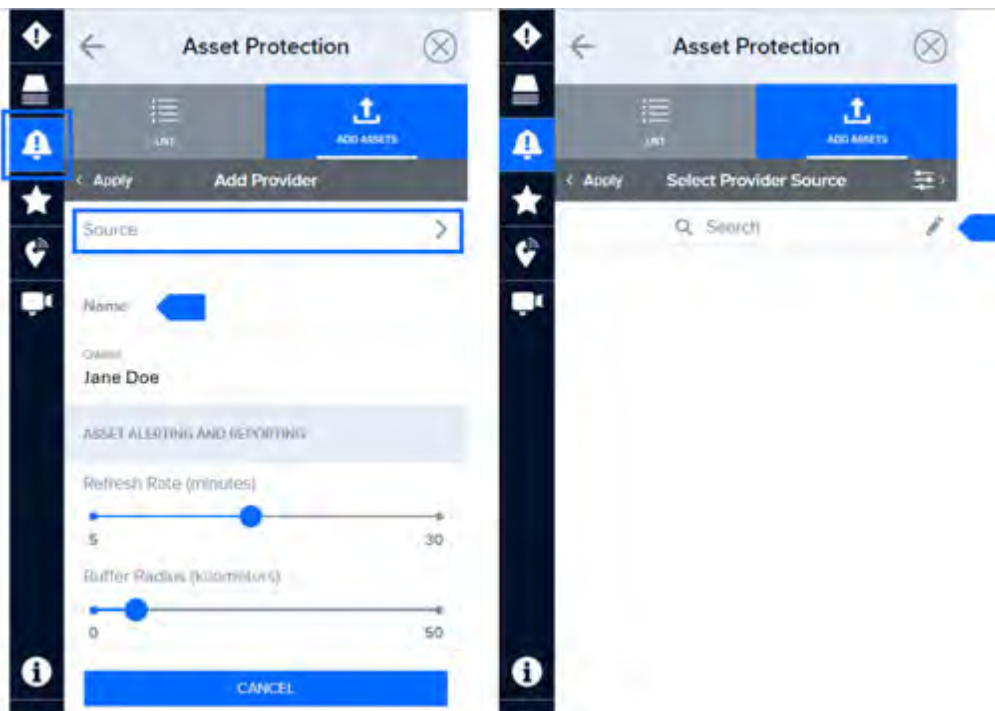
To setup asset protection, click the **Smart Alert** icon on the left toolbar and then click on **Asset Protection**. Once the **Assets** panel opens, click the **Add Assets** tab.



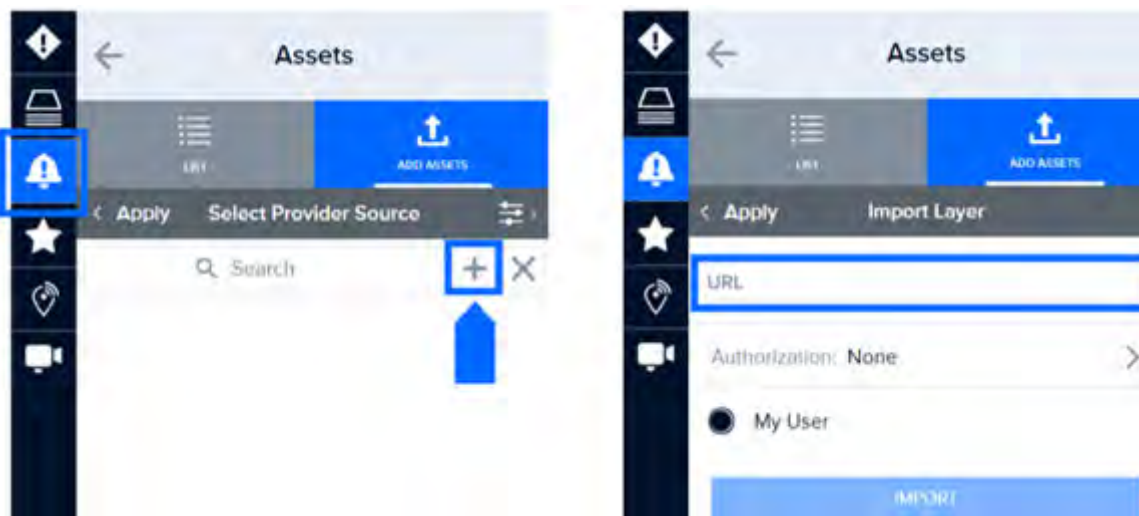
While in the **Add Assets** tab, click the **Create Asset Provider** button (see image above). You will need to add a data source for the assets you want to monitor. **Note:** The “Create Asset Provider” button disappears after you have created your first asset provider (see image below).



Under **Add Provider**, enter a meaningful name for the asset data layer you want to import and click the **Source** link. Next, under **Select Provider Source**, click the **Edit** button to begin the process of adding assets.

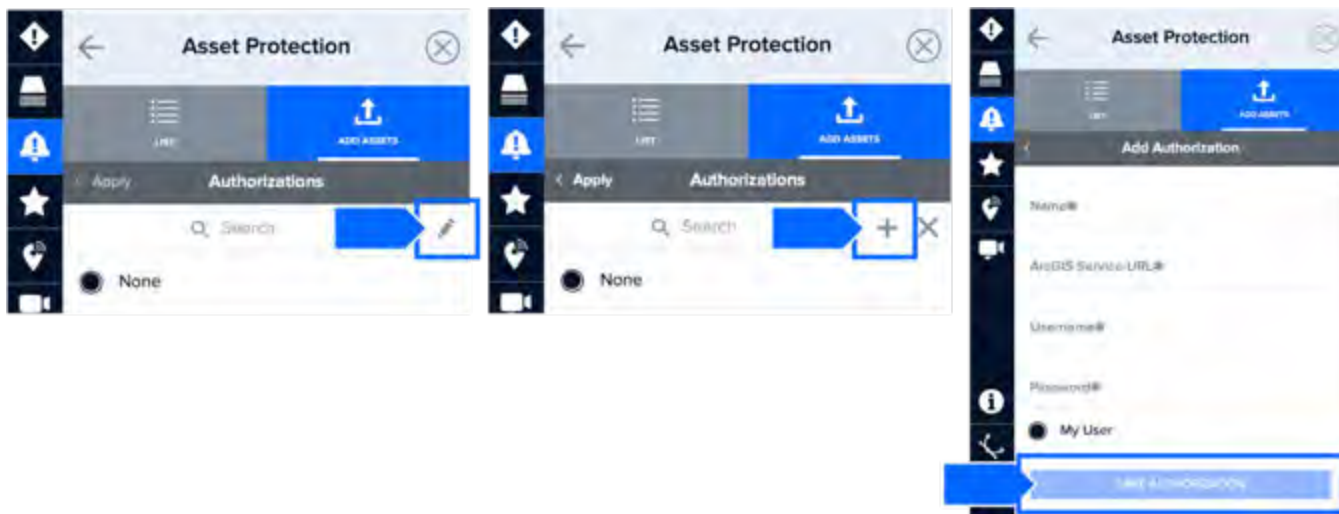


Now click the **Plus (+)** symbol and add a web service URL for the assets layer you wish to import. Add the asset provider mapservice URL.



If the asset layer is password protected, you can also add credentials needed to access the service by clicking the **Authorization** link and follow the guidance below. If it does not require a password, select **Import** and then **Apply** to return to the **Select Provider Source** list.

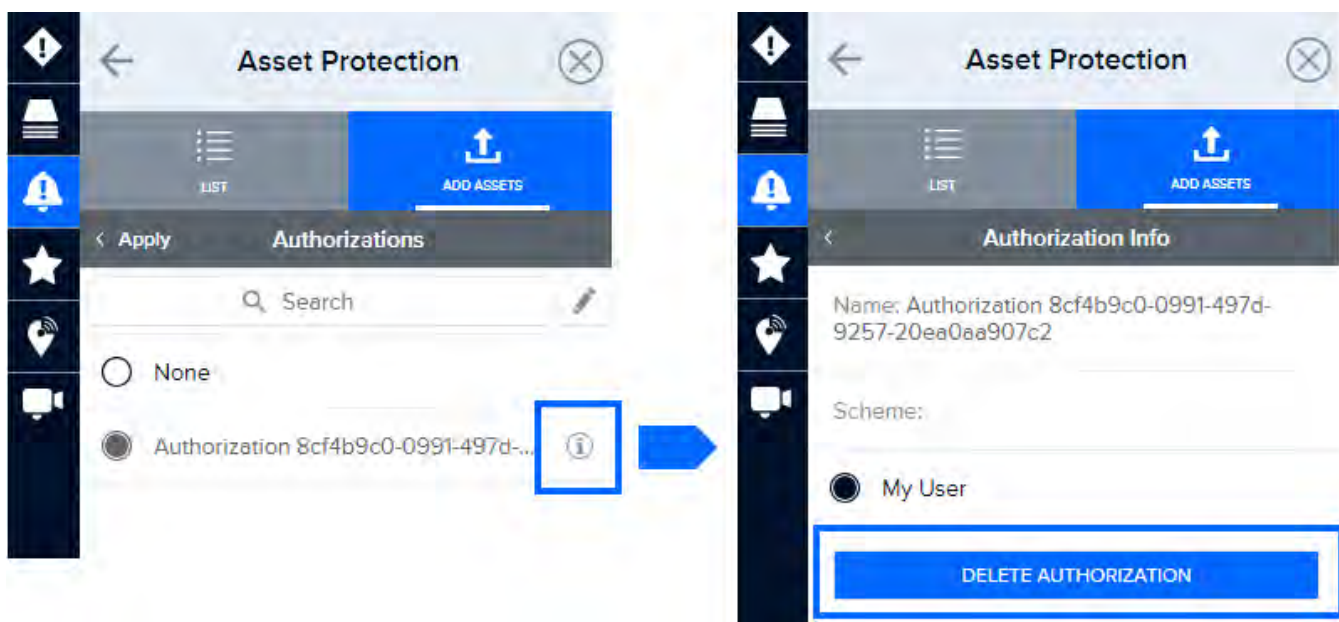
Next, click the **Edit** icon, then the **Plus (+)** symbol, and then enter the layer authorization details shown below. Be sure to select **Save Authorization** when you are done entering the required information.



After you have applied the necessary authorization credentials (if required), select the back arrow next to **Add Authorization**. Your newly added source should now be visible in the list.

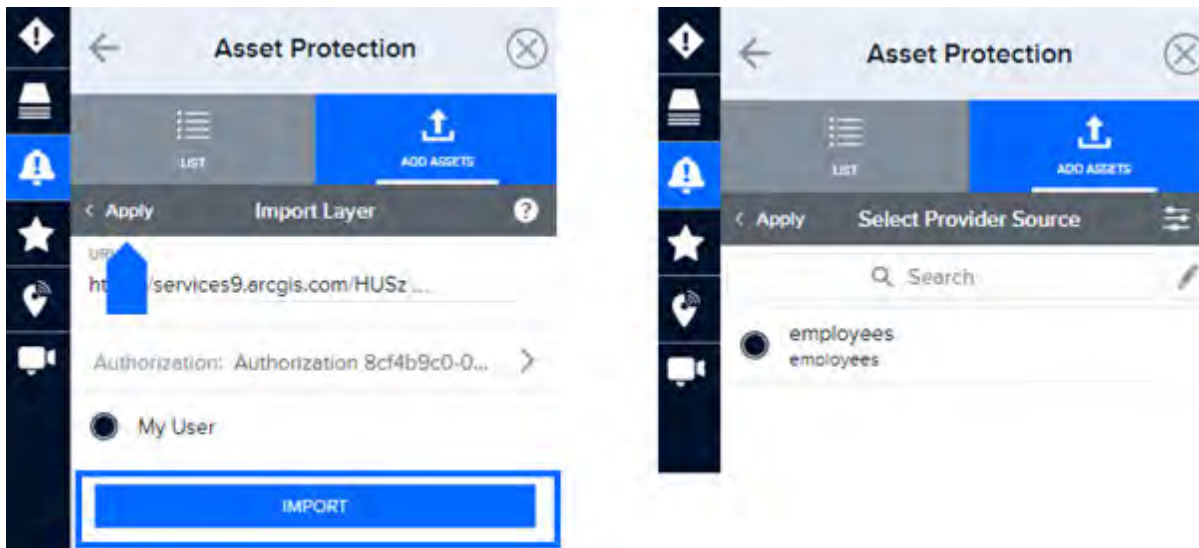
Verify that the correct authorization is selected in the **Authorizations** list (the circle to its left should be filled).

Note: You can remove an unwanted authorization by clicking on the information button to its right and then the **Delete Authorization** button.

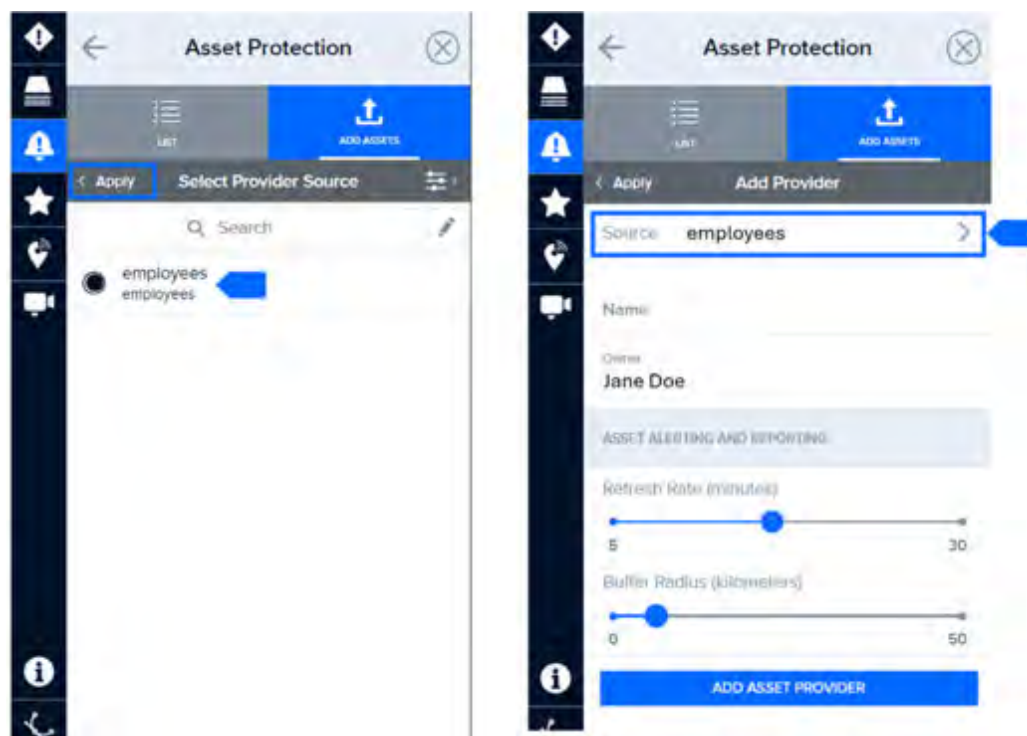




Be sure to select the **Import** button to ensure that your asset data is successfully imported. Then select the **Apply** option to return to the Select **Provider Source** list. Your newly added source should now be visible in the list.



Select the circle next to that source in the list and then select **Apply**. You will now see the name of that **Source** listed in the **Add Provider** panel.



Be sure to **Name** your asset provider and select **Apply** to complete the **Add Assets** process.

Select the **Specify asset name field** option to specify which column/field in your dataset includes the names of your assets (e.g. building name, personnel names, resource names, etc.). This will help you distinguish between your individual assets on the map.



## Asset alerting and reporting

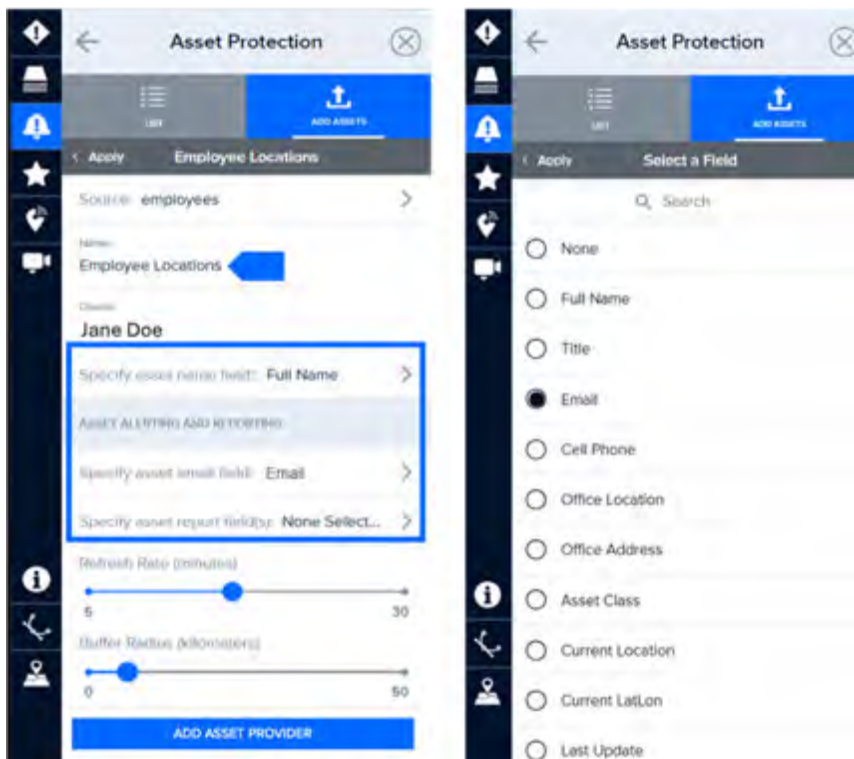
Under the **Asset Alerting and Reporting** section, you will find options for enhanced reporting and notification when assets are potentially exposed to the hazard types and severities you have specified.

If your asset mapservice includes **email addresses** for assets, select **Specify asset email field** and then select the data field that includes that information. By doing this, your assets will be sent Smart Alert notifications when potential exposed to the hazards, per your Smart Alert area and hazard filter settings. **Assets are not required to have a DisasterAWARE account to receive these notifications.**

Specify how frequently you would like DisasterAWARE to check for updates to your asset locations using the **Refresh Rate** option, as well as specify how wide of a **Buffer Radius** around each asset you wish to use for those assets. When a hazard meeting your Smart Alert settings intersects that Buffer Radius, a Smart Alert notification will be triggered.

**Note:** If the minimum buffer radius for imported assets is set to a value of zero (0), Smart Alert notifications will only be triggered when a hazard directly impacts the specific assets tracked, as opposed to alerting on a radius outside of the assets.

Once you've applied the desired settings for that asset source, select either **Apply** or the **Add Asset Provider** button to complete the import process.



If you have signed up to receive **Smart Alert Emails**, you will also receive an email with an **Asset Report** summarizing the number of your assets potentially exposed to a hazard. To specify which data fields you would like summarized in that report, click the **Specify asset report field(s)** option (see previous image – left) and select which fields you would like to be included in the summary.

Below is an example of an **Asset Report Email**.

WARNING

Earthquake - 7.8 - Los Angeles, California

ASSETS EXPOSED

Severity	Schools	Trains	Warehouses
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Severe	1056	2	11
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Moderate	508	0	16
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Limited	528	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2192</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>

EXPOSURE BREAKDOWN

Schools

Property Name	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Severe	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Moderate	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Limited
Enrollment	724.6K	352.0K	264.3K
FT Teachers	30.8K	15.1K	15.6K
Special Needs Enrolled	5.3K	2.7K	2.7K

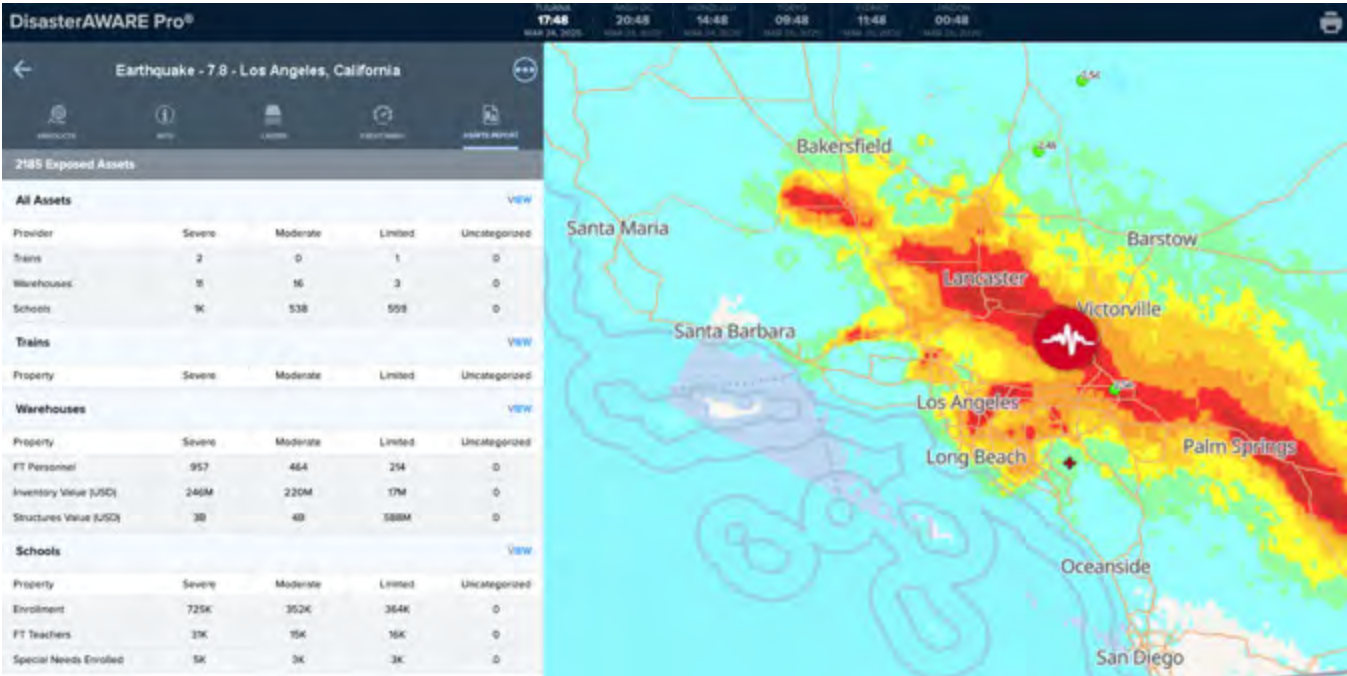
Trains

Property Name	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Severe	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Moderate	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Limited
---------------	---	--	---

Warehouses

Property Name	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Severe	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Moderate	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Limited
FT Personnel	957	464	254
Inventory Value (USD)	246.4M	219.7M	16.5M
Structures Value (USD)	3.1B	3.6B	587.7M

You may also access the **Asset Report** via that hazard in the Hazard panel. Open the hazard and select the **Asset Report** tab.



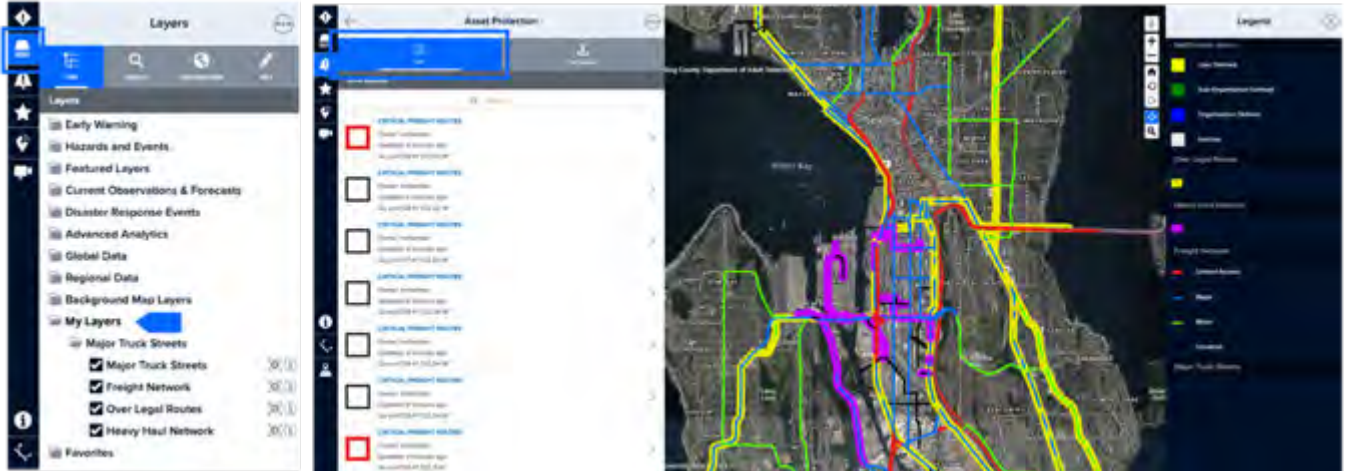
## View imported asset layers



Click the **Layers** icon in the left toolbar to view your list of layers.



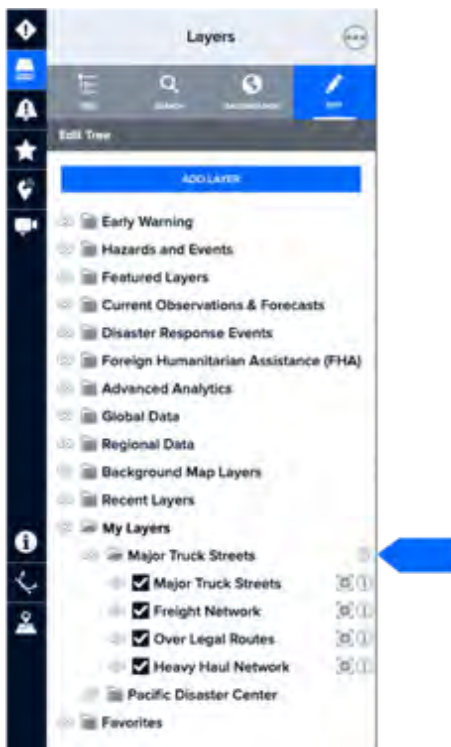
The asset layer(s) you've added will appear under the **My Layers** folder along with any other data layers you've previously imported.



## Delete asset layers and authorization credentials



While in the Layers panel, select the **Edit** button. Expand the **My Layers** folder and select the **Delete** button shown below for the layer you wish to remove.



### PRO TIP

You cannot delete authorization credentials until asset layers utilizing that authorization have been removed from your list of Asset Providers. Click the **Smart Alert** icon on the left toolbar, then **Assets > Sources** and select the credential you wish to delete. Next click the **Edit** icon and the **Delete** (x) icon.

## Live cameras

DisasterAWARE provides live camera monitoring and footage in select locations around the world. Live cameras help increase situational awareness of on-the-ground conditions and are a useful tool for disaster response and preparedness.

Live cameras help monitor traffic and road conditions (e.g. contraflow), coastal storm surge and wind conditions, and a host of other hazards and activity.



Zoom in closely to an area of interest and click the **Cameras** icon from the left toolbar. If cameras are available, they will be grouped on the map to depict the number available in an area if in close proximity to each other or displayed individually.



When you click a grouped camera icon, the map will zoom in closer and show the locations of individual cameras included in that grouping.



Once zoomed in enough to view individual cameras, click one of the **Camera** icons on the map to view its footage in the Cameras panel. Select **Enable Camera** to add it to your list of cameras you wish to keep monitoring under the **Active Cameras** tab. You can enable and view up to 10 livestreaming cameras at once in the **Active Cameras** tab.



Still frame cameras (which produce still images that are updated at a source-specified interval), and live cameras are differentiated on the map by separate icons (see below).



You can also turn on cameras by selecting the **Overview** tab and checking the box next to the camera you wish to enable and view.



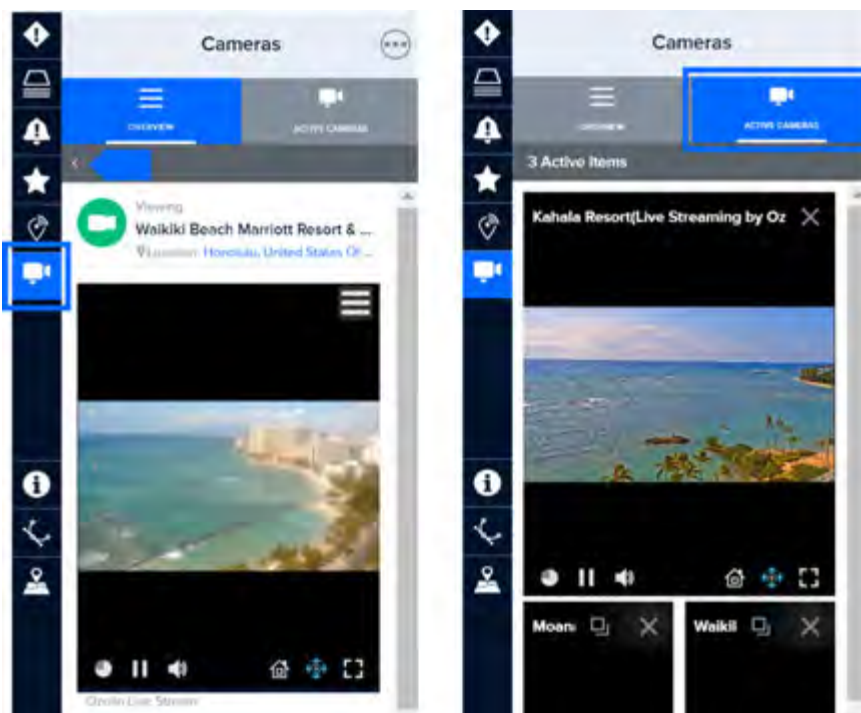
**Note:** A green camera icon signifies that the camera is enabled for viewing in the **Active Camera** tab, a blue camera icon signifies an available or online camera, and a red camera icon is a camera that is not available or is offline.



**PRO TIP**

Click the **Settings** icon in the cameras panel to sort the list of cameras by name, city, country, etc. Cameras may sometimes experience downtime and will be colored red when offline.

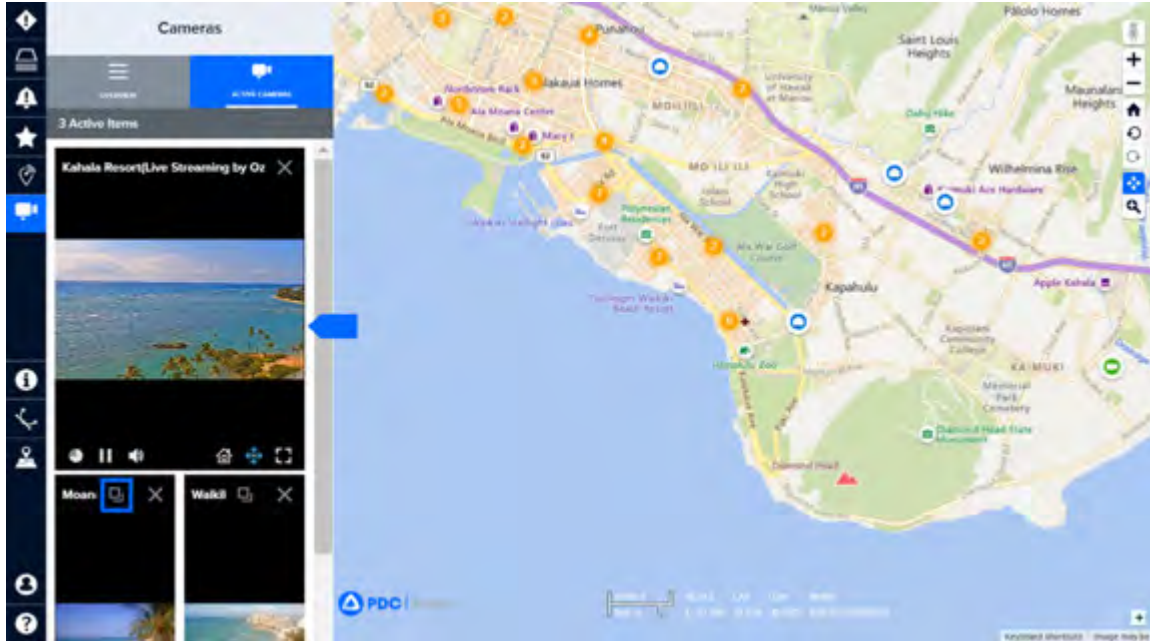
You can enable multiple cameras by repeating the steps above. To view the cameras you've enabled, click the back arrow or **Active Cameras** tab.







To set the main camera in the **Active Cameras** tab, select the **Return State** button at the top of the active image or live video in.



**Note:** Live camera feeds update at different intervals (some update every 10 seconds and others stream live) depending on the provider and may or may not have date and time stamps.



You can use the Google background map to visualize real-time traffic while using the **Live Camera** feature.

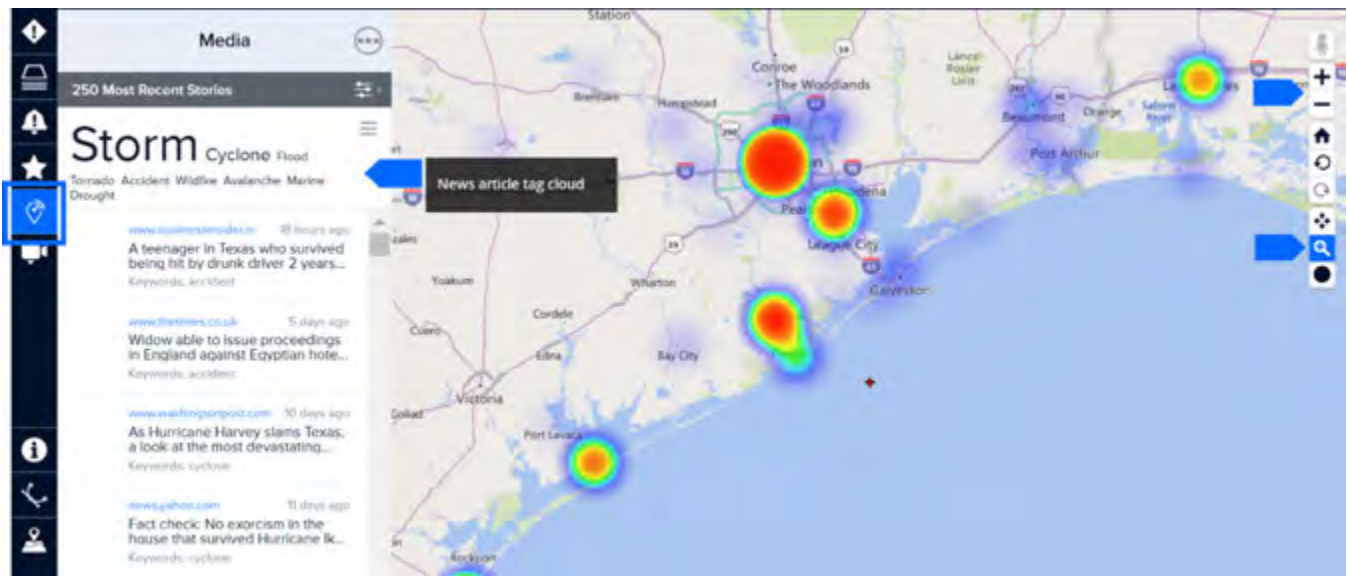
## Media hot spots

Increase your situational awareness about hazards through the latest media updates.

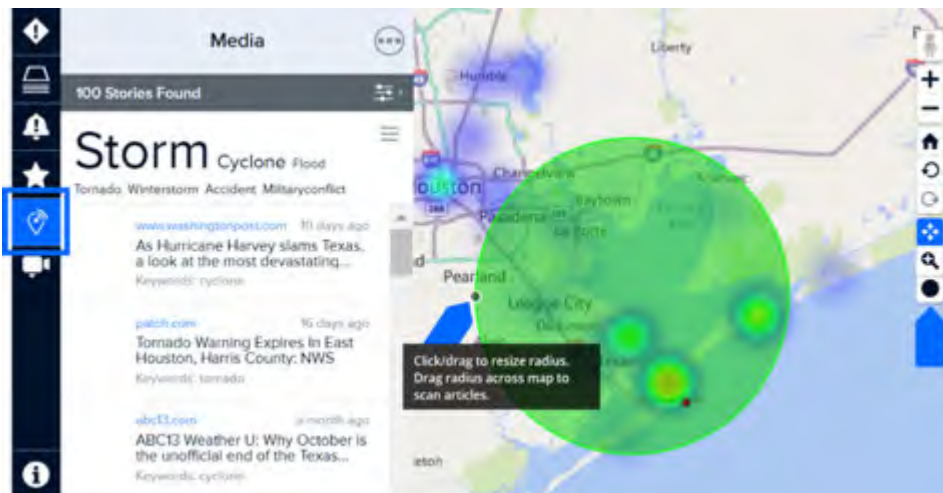


Click the **Media** icon from the left toolbar to see hot spots of media activity related to natural and manmade hazards happening around the world.

Zoom in closer to any hot spot to see the types of hazard articles reported within the area. You can use your mouse scroller, the “+” symbol on the right toolbar or zoom selector.



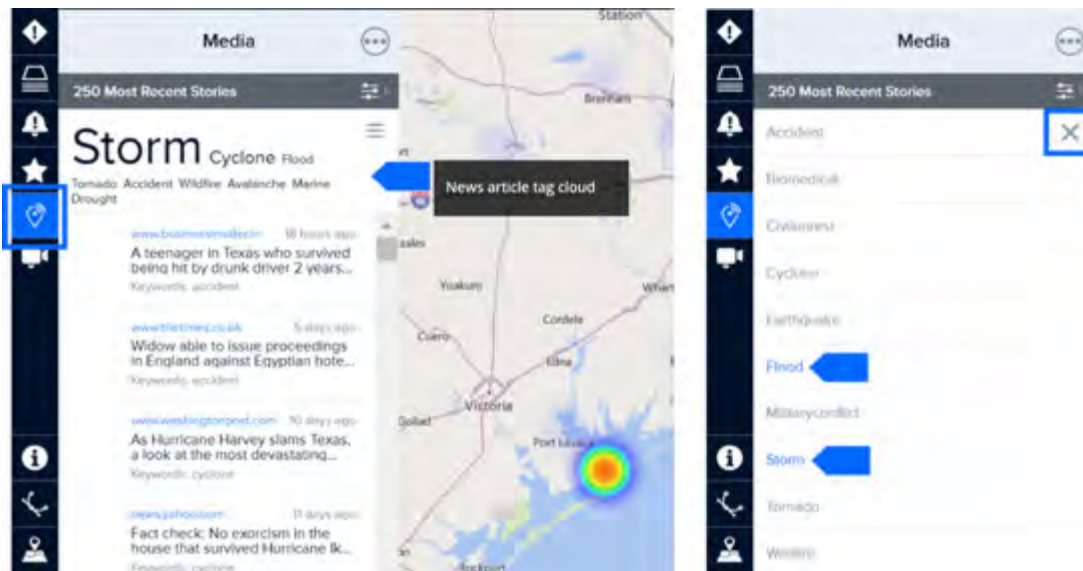
The scanner tool allows you to filter results as you drag the scanner radius over areas of the map (see below). You can resize the radius by clicking the small grey circle and dragging as shown below.



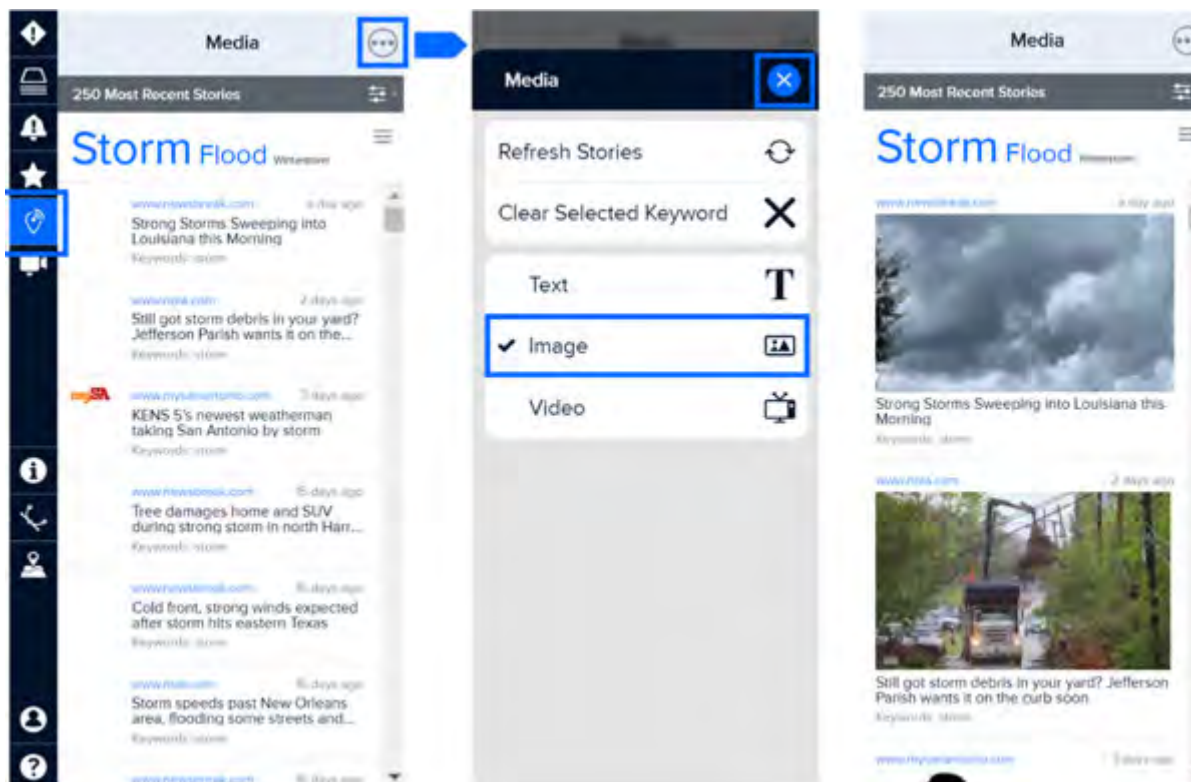
### PRO TIP

Although news stories are automatically refreshed every five minutes, you can click the three dots at the top of the **Media** panel and **Refresh Stories** to manually refresh at any time.

To quickly filter news articles by topic, click the **Article Tag Cloud** shown above and select the keyword categories of interest. Then close the panel to see the filtered news stories.



To apply additional filters to news stories, click the **Settings** icon (three dots) in the top right **Media** panel.



## SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

DisasterAWARE greatly facilitates the ability of decision makers to access the most reliable and timely information about hazards happening anywhere around the globe. While many hazards and products are automatically created or integrated into the system, some hazards must be manually added to DisasterAWARE by trusted PDC analysts and partners. These individuals are granted special administrative access, allowing them to add and edit products and/or hazards in the system.

Administrative roles in DisasterAWARE include the ability to add and edit products added by your specific group, or to add and edit both hazards and products within your group. If you are interested in learning more about these roles, please contact [info@pdc.org](mailto:info@pdc.org).

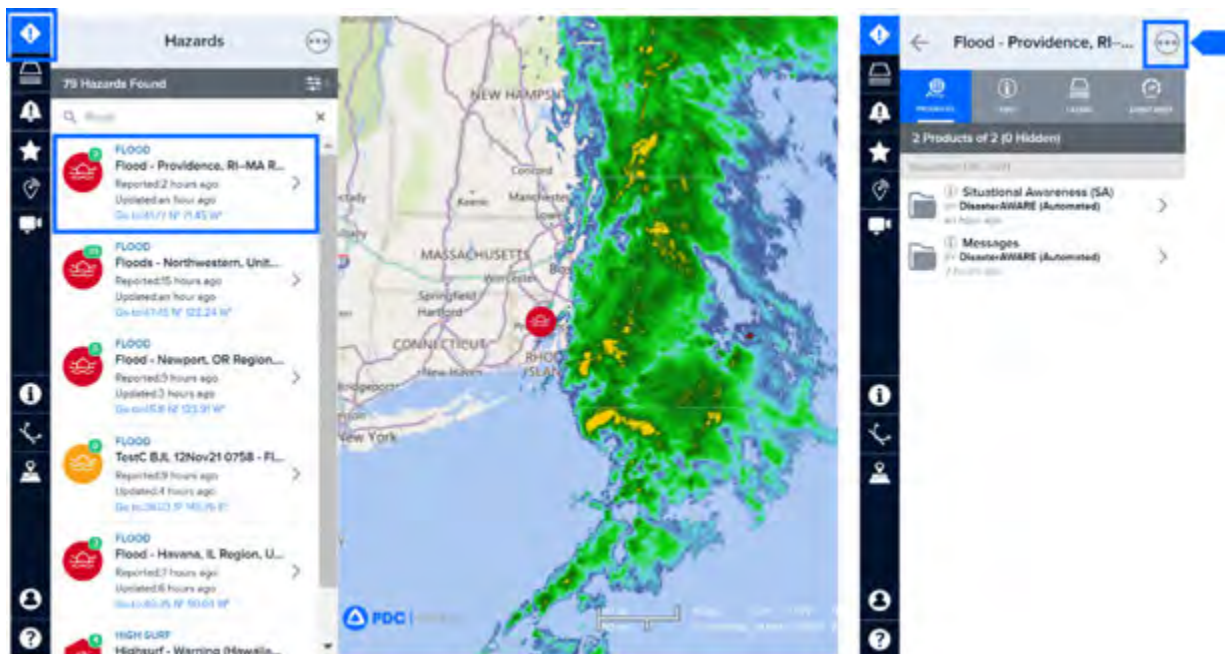
### Add products to an existing hazard

DisasterAWARE users with administrative privileges can add products to any hazard to support collaboration and increase situational awareness across organizations during response. Products commonly uploaded include advisories and messages, Situation Reports (SitReps), maps, damage assessments, and other analytical products.



Click the **Hazards** icon on the left toolbar. With the **Hazard panel** open, use the search feature to locate the hazard for which you'd like to share a product. Alternatively, click on a hazard on the map and select the **Products** button.

Next, click the three dots at the top of the panel to access the **Add Product** option.



Please note that all products must be organized in a folder. See the next section below for more information on how to create folders and organize products.

#### PRO TIP

When adding or editing products, changes will be visible to all users. Be sure names are clear and concise. Include date information for static products (e.g. SitReps, maps, etc.) which are not automatically updated. **[Source – Brief Product Title, Date; e.g. PDC – Preliminary Impact Assessment, 30 JUL 20].**



After clicking the **Add Product** option, complete the form below. Whenever possible, convert URL products to PDF or JPG images and upload the file to the Hazard. This helps ensure that the product stays accessible in the future as external URLs may change and become invalid.

The image consists of two side-by-side screenshots of the DisasterAware mobile application interface, illustrating the process of adding a new product.

**Left Screenshot:** Shows the main menu for a hazard titled "Landslide - Central Andes, NE of Punata, Cochabamba, Bolivia". The "Add Product" option is highlighted with a blue box and a blue arrow pointing to it.

**Right Screenshot:** Shows the "Add Product" form. The form includes the following fields and annotations:

- Name:** A text input field with a blue arrow pointing to it and the annotation: "Enter product name."
- Type:** A dropdown menu with icons for "Folder", "File", "Image", and "Video". A blue arrow points to it with the annotation: "Select the **type** of product. Your options change depending on the product type."
- Display on Web:** A toggle switch. A blue arrow points to it with the annotation: "If this option is turned off, the product will not display in the list. This is useful for pre-staging products, especially during exercises."
- Product Date:** A date and time picker showing "4 21 2025 11 41 AM". A blue arrow points to it with the annotation: "If known, enter the **date** that the product represents (e.g. start of forecast), so it will appear in the correct place in the timeline."
- Location:** A section with "Latitude" and "Longitude" fields, each with a "SELECT" button. A blue arrow points to the "SELECT" button with the annotation: "You can also assign a location by Geocoding your product. Type in the desired coordinates or click the **select** option to select a specific location on the map."
- Parent Folder:** A dropdown menu showing "None". A blue arrow points to it with the annotation: "Organize products by adding them to an existing **folder**."

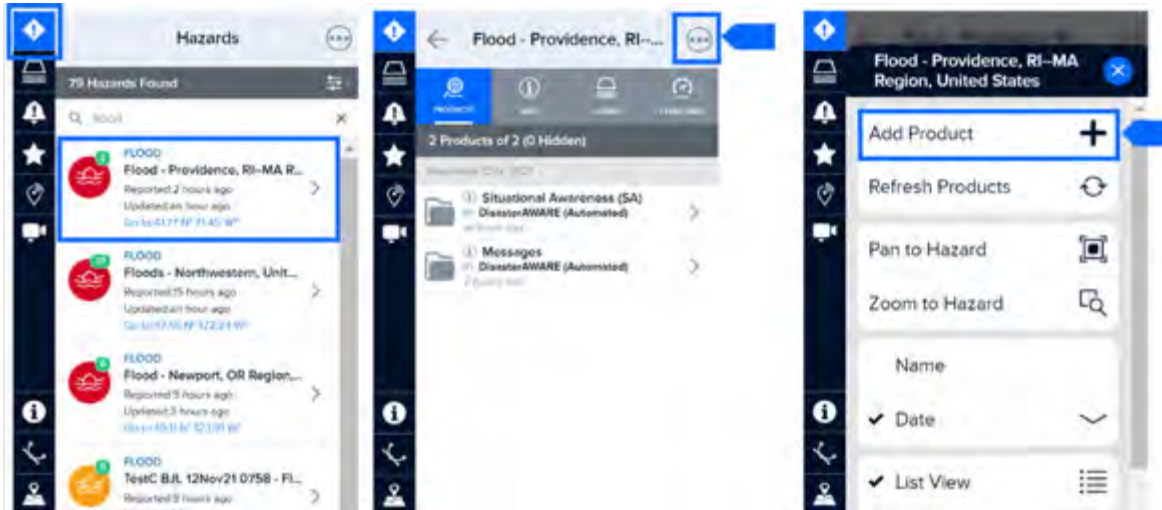


## Organize products into folders

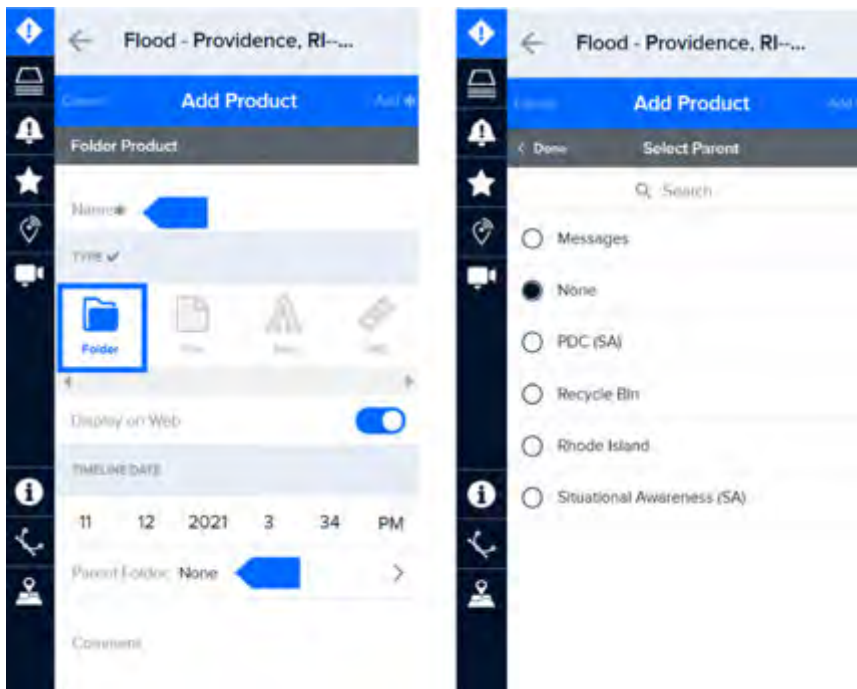
All products must be added to a folder. Organizing products into folders and subfolders makes them easier to find.



Click the **Hazard** icon from the left toolbar and select a hazard from the hazard list. Then click the three dots at the top of the **Hazard** panel and then **Add Product**.



Next, choose the **Folder** option as shown below and add a name for the folder. See folder naming practices below for tips on organizing products.



## Folder naming practices

PDC organizes products into **Parent Folders** by category and **Subfolders** by organization. Below are the recommended practices for naming **Parent** and **Subfolders**. Note that both Parent and Subfolders include common tags such as (SitRep) or (SA). This provides a consistent and easy way for users to find products.

- **Situation Reports (SitRep).** Information providing an update on the event such as a SitRep, Briefing, or Press Release. Does not include maps or image products. Subfolders should include the organization name and type of parent folder: UNOCHA (SitRep)
- **Observations and Forecasts (Obs).** Current observations related to the hazard or forecast information such as hazard outlooks, forecast maps, weather observations, etc. Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: JMA (Obs)
- **Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA).** Information pertaining directly to damage and needs assessments such as reports, tables, and maps including preliminary, detailed, or sectoral. Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: AHA CENTRE (DANA)
- **Photos.** May include photos taken in the field, satellite images, and other photos obtained from vetted sources such as news agencies (e.g., AP, Reuters). Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: AHA CENTRE (Photos)
- **Advisories (Advs).** Advisories issued by official authorities such as the U.S. National Weather Service, Philippines PAGASA, Bahamas Meteorology Dept., etc. Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: PAGASA (Advs)
- **Reference (Ref).** Reference maps, such as the locations of facilities and population. Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: Map Action (Ref)
- **Situational Awareness (SA).** Maps that provide situational awareness on the hazard or relief activities including modeled impacts, location of response teams, hazard risk areas, etc. Subfolders should include the issuing agency name and type of parent folder: PDC (SA)

## Edit a product

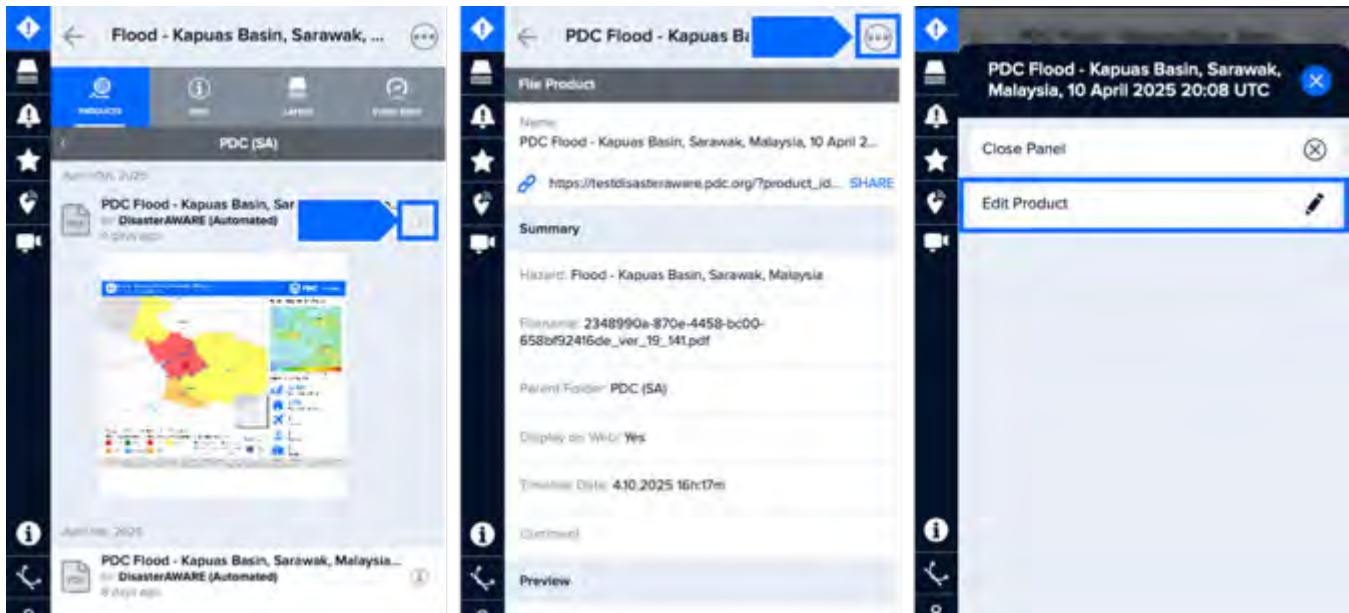
You may need to edit the name of a product, its attributes, or its folder location. Only members of the organization that added the product may edit it.



To edit a product, click the **Hazard** icon from the left toolbar.



From within the **Products** tab in the panel menu, locate the product you want to edit and click its corresponding **Info** icon. Then click the three dots at the top right of the panel and click **Edit Product** to edit product details including the name of an existing product and its URL or linked file.



### PRO TIP

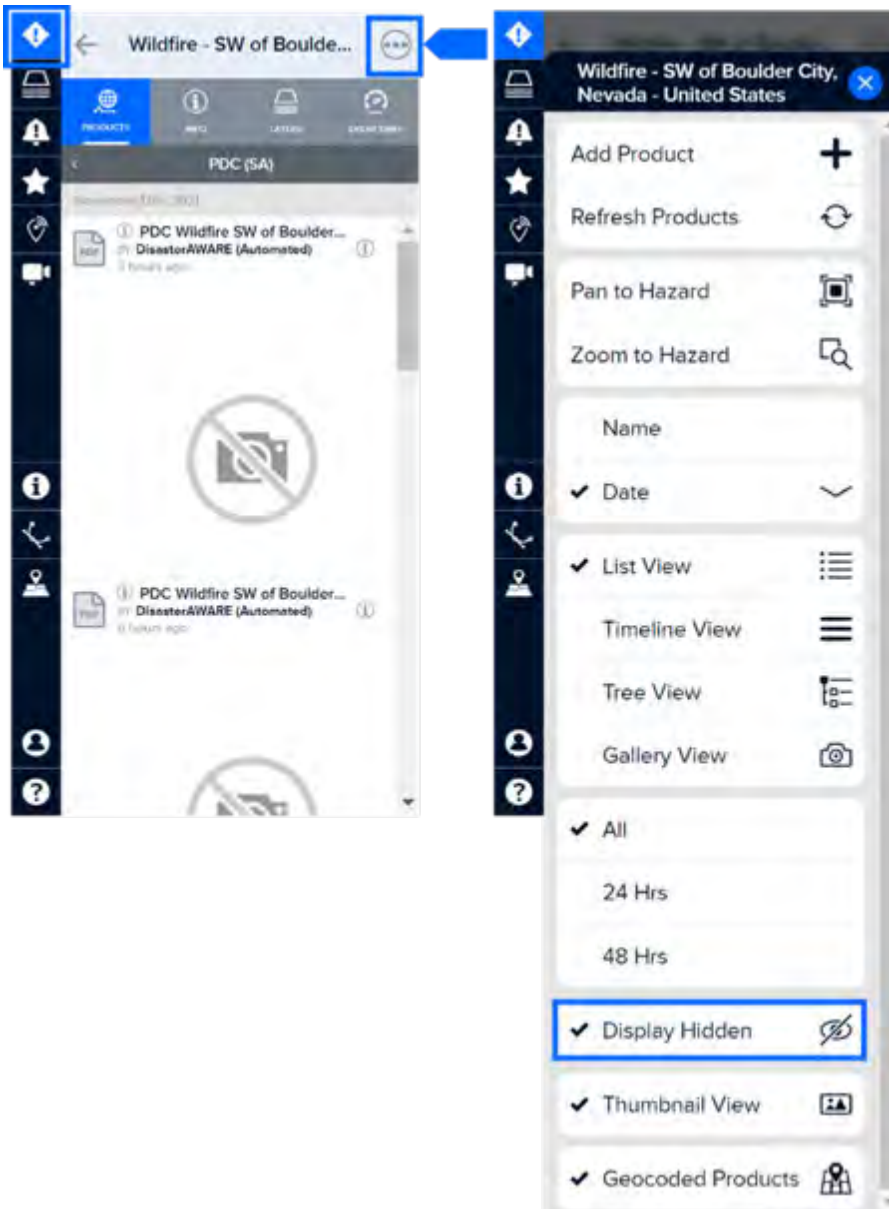
DisasterAWARE currently does not include a delete option for products. However, you are able to hide a product by turning the **Display on Web** button off. It is recommended that you also move your hidden products into the **Recycle Bin** in the parent folder.



Hidden products are not visible in the products list. To view or edit a hidden product, click the **Products** tab while in the **Hazards** Panel.



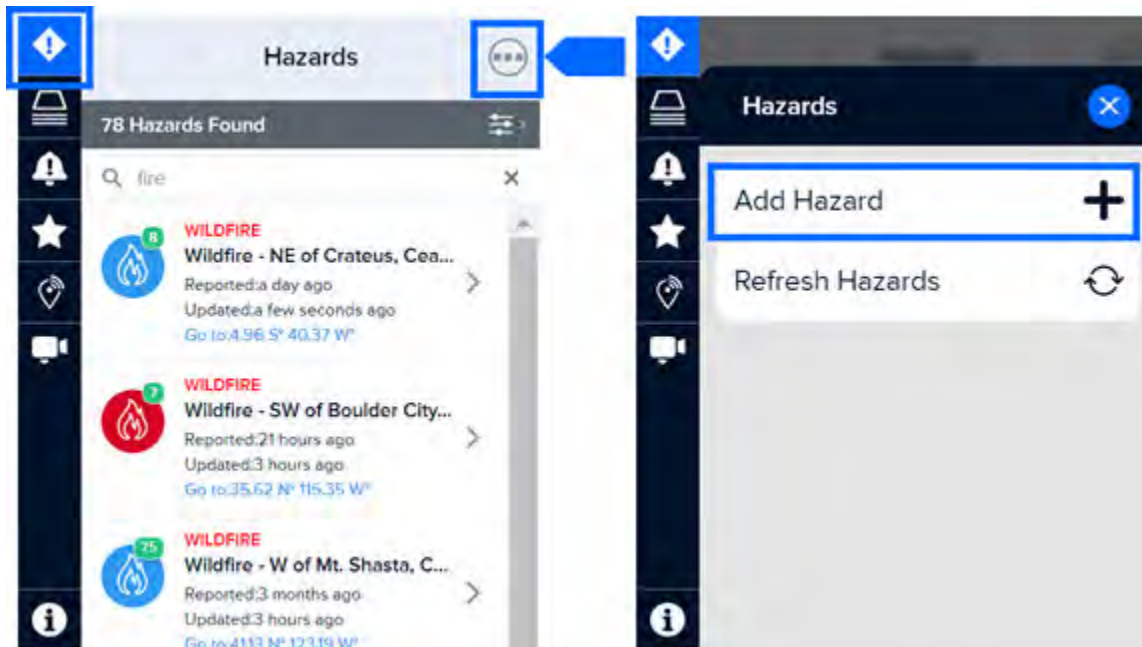
While in the product list, click the **Settings** icon and toggle the **Display Hidden** button on.



## Create a hazard



To create a hazard, click the **Hazard** icon on the left toolbar. Next, click the three dots at the top of the panel, and then the **Add Hazard** option.




### PRO TIP

When adding or editing hazards, changes will be visible to all users. Be sure names are clear and concise. **[Hazard Type] - [Location]** (e.g. Flood - Manila, Philippines)



Next, complete the **Add Hazard** form as shown below.



The screenshot shows the 'Add Hazard' form with the following fields and annotations:

- Name:** A text input field. Annotation: Enter a name for the hazard.
- Created By:** A dropdown menu currently showing 'None'. Annotation: Draw the area on the map to be alerted. Users will only receive alerts for the types of hazards and severity levels specified in their Smart Alert preferences.
- SmartAlert Area:** A map area with a right arrow icon.
- CATEGORY:** A dropdown menu with icons for 'Event', 'Exercise', 'Other', and 'Training'. Annotation: Select a category. (e.g. **Event** represents real events, while **Exercise** is used for exercises and trainings.)
- SEVERITY:** A dropdown menu with icons for 'Low', 'Medium', 'High', and 'Critical'. Annotation: Assign **Hazard Severity** based on the latest status.
- TYPE:** A dropdown menu with icons for 'Explosion', 'Hazardous Material', 'Flood', 'Seismicity', and 'Other'. Annotation: There **28 types** of hazards to choose from.
- LOCATION:** A section with a 'SELECT' button and coordinate fields. Annotation: Click **select** to specify the location of the hazard using the map or enter its **coordinates**.
- Latitude:** A text input field with the value '21.42396000' and dropdowns for 'N' and 'S'.
- Longitude:** A text input field with the value '157.53093000' and dropdowns for 'E' and 'W'.
- DATE & TIME:** A section with a 'SELECT' button and date/time pickers. Annotation: Specific the time the hazard **started**. If **Expire On** is included, the hazard will automatically expire at that date and time.
- Start:** A date/time picker showing '4 21 2025 12 19 PM'.
- Expire On:** A checkbox labeled 'Expire On' which is checked, followed by a date/time picker showing '4 28 2025 12 19 PM'.
- Description:** A text input field. Annotation: Enter a brief **Description** about the hazard. This will appear in that hazard's Info tab.

## Define a Smart Alert area for hazards



To define an alert area for a hazard, click the smart alert icon on the left toolbar, and then select the **Smart Alert Area** as shown below. Next, click the “+” symbol.

Next, choose one of the three drawing tools (**Circle**, **Polygon**, or **Rectangle**).

Draw the area on the map and name it to correspond to the specific hazard it applies to.

To disable notifications, click **SmartAlert Area** and click **Disable Notifications**.

Select the back arrow to return to the form.

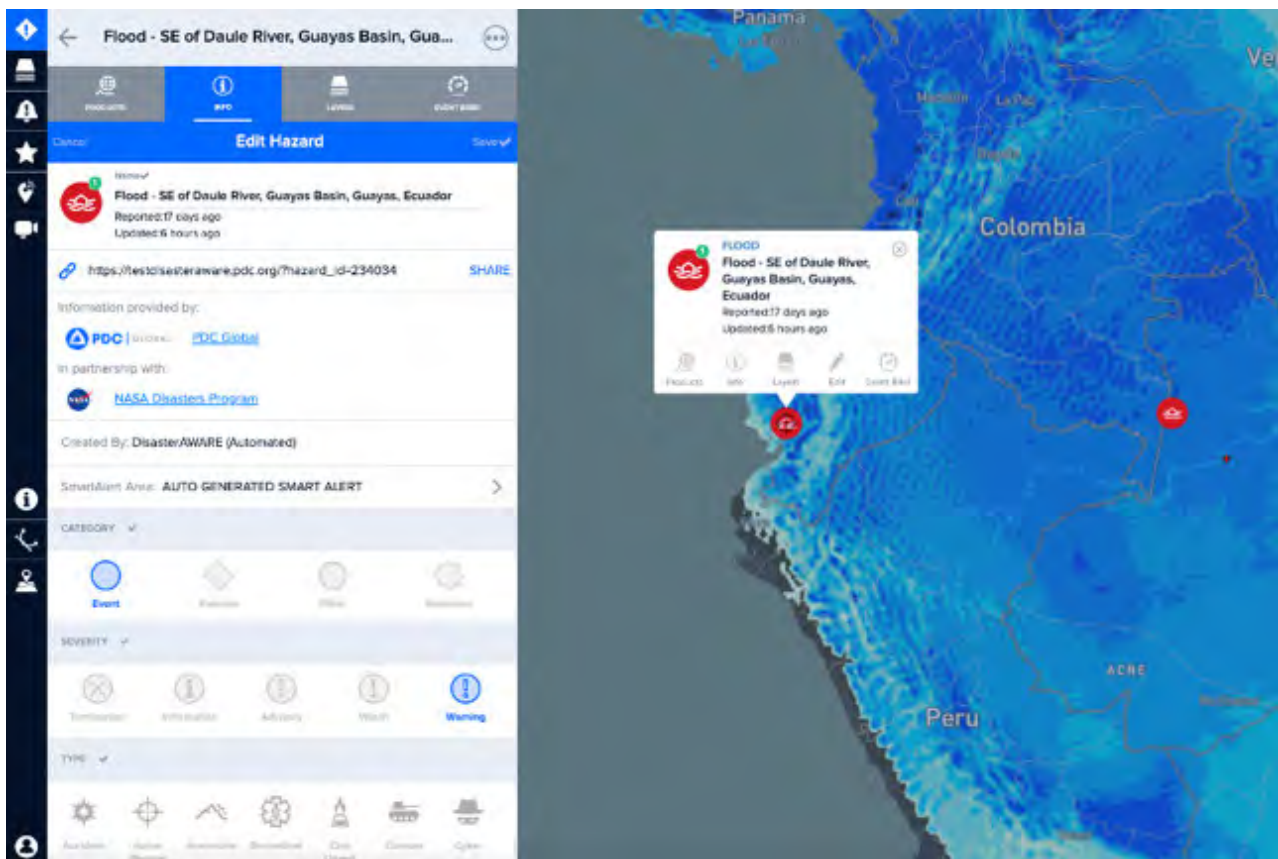
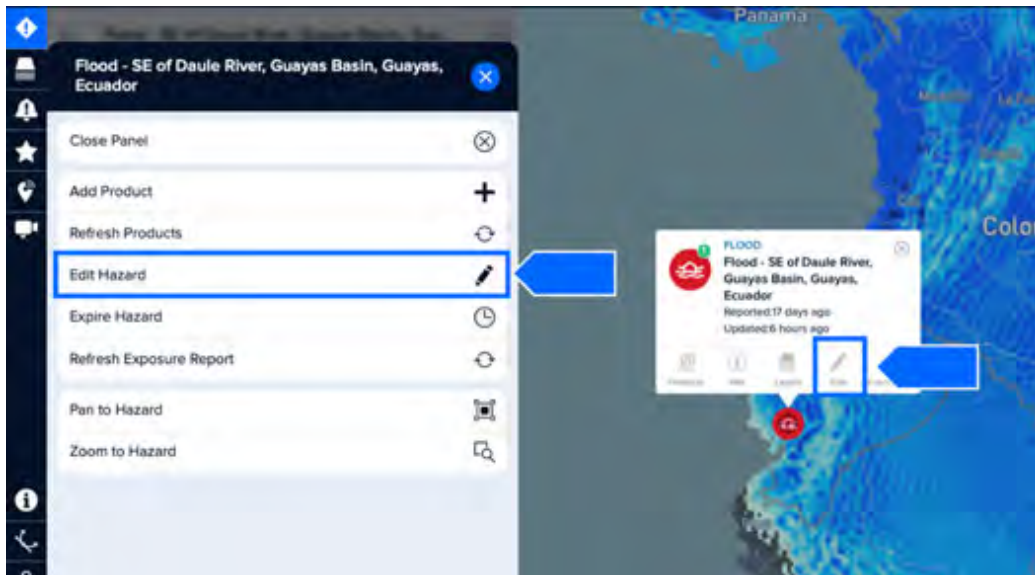
**Note:** You can only assign one Smart Alert area per hazard.

## Edit a Hazard

It is sometimes necessary to edit Hazards in DisasterAWARE. For example, there may be a change to a Hazard Name, Severity, Location, or End Date.



To edit a hazard, click the **Hazard** from hazard list on the left toolbar. Next, click the three dots at the top right of the hazard panel, and then the **Edit Hazard** option. Fill out the **Edit Hazard** form and click **Save** as shown below.



# Organization and Sub-Organization Administrator Functions

## Managing your organization or sub-organization's default settings

**Organization or sub-organization administration** is available for select, trained users to help provide a more focused and customized experience for users associated with those groups. These administrators can manage their organization or sub-organization's **default contact information, user preferences (e.g. default bookmark), Smart Alert, and Asset Protection settings**. These settings serve as the default for users associated with that group. However, individual users can further customize their individual preferences and settings at any time.

These defaults will be applied to new users as well existing users who reset their preferences.

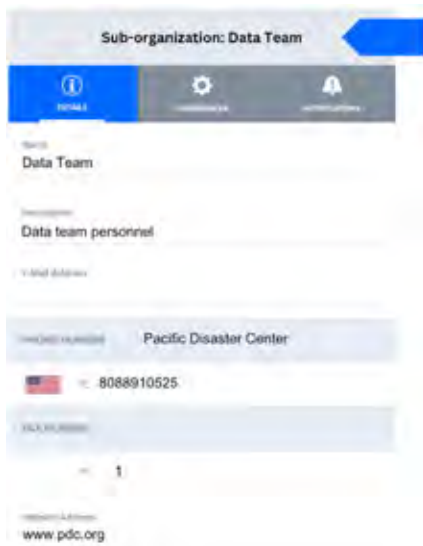
## Update the default organization or sub-organization contact information



To change your sub-organization's contact information, open your **User** panel and select the **Account** tab (your name should be visible at the top of the panel, followed by your account information). Next, **select your organization or sub-organization** option.



Once you have made a selection, you will see a list of details associated with your organization or sub-organization under the **Details** tab. You may edit its name, description, contact details, and more. Your changes will be applied automatically.

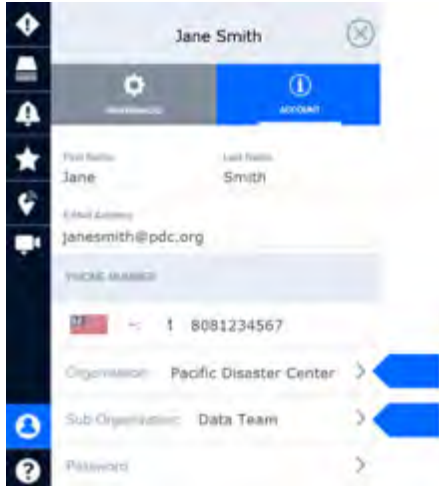


## Set default organization or sub-organization user preferences



To set your organization or sub-organization default user preferences, open your **User** panel and select the **Account** tab (your name should be visible at the top of the panel, followed by your account information).

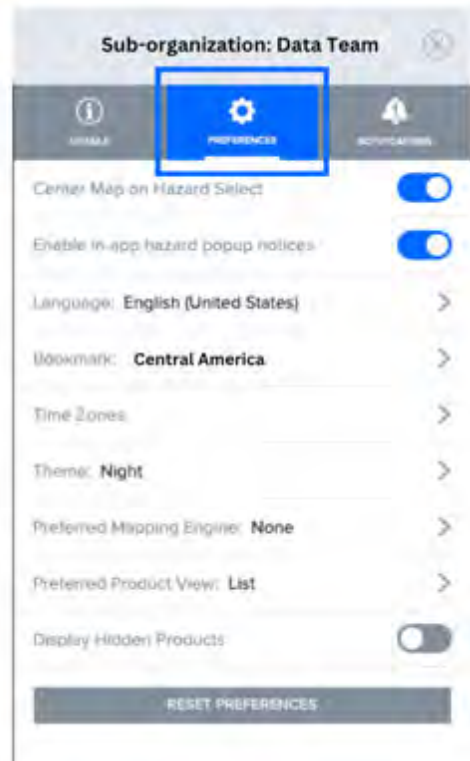
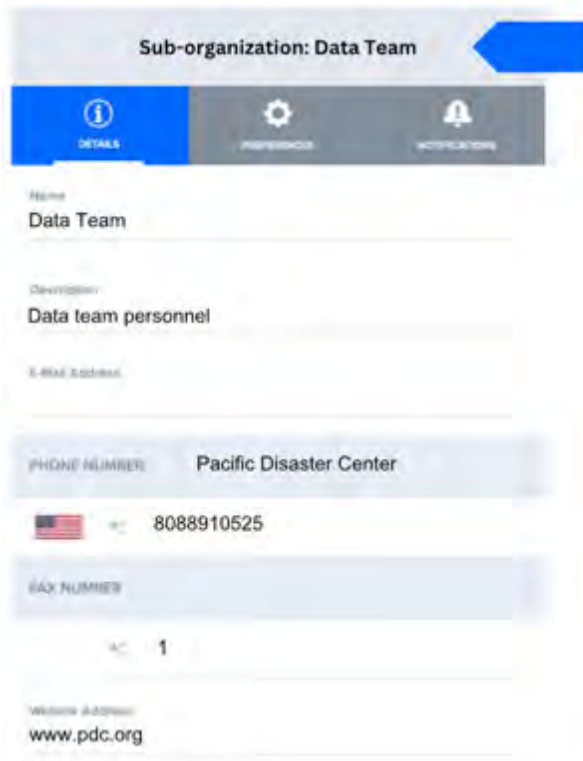
Next, click either **Organization** or **Sub-Organization** at the bottom of the panel.



Once you have made your selection, you will see a list of details associated with that organization or sub-organization.



Select the **Preferences** tab and adjust preferences as desired for all members of your organization or sub-organization. To learn about various preferences, follow the instructions in the related section of this user guide. You can update these at any time for your organization or sub-organization, depending on your admin privileges.





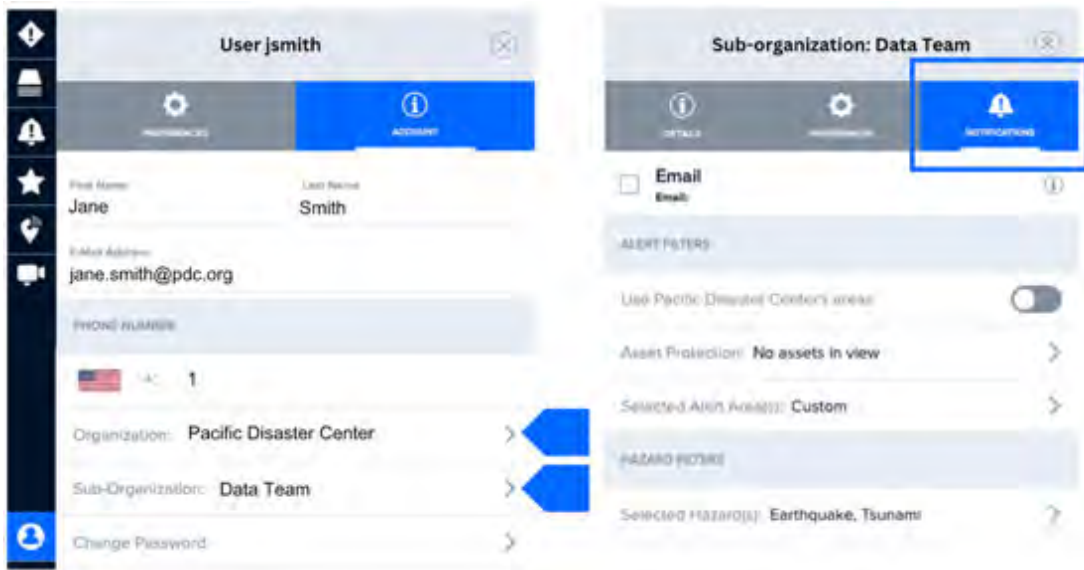
## Default organization or sub-organization Smart Alert and Asset Protection settings

Organization and sub-organization administrators can also set default Smart Alert and Asset Protection settings.



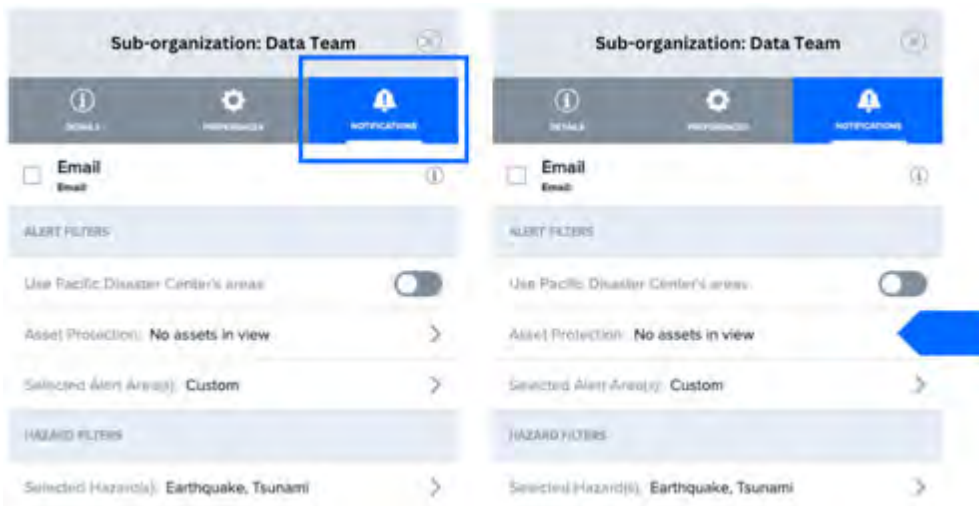
To set your organization or sub-organization's default Smart Alert settings, go to your **User** panel and click on either the Organization or Sub-organization option. Then select the **Notifications** tab as shown in the image on the right below.

Follow the steps in the **Smart Alert** section of this guide to set up the default alert delivery (e.g. email), area filters, and hazard settings you wish to apply to either your organization or sub-organization.



To set your organization or sub-organization's default Asset Protection settings, go to your **User** panel and click on either the Organization or Sub-organization option, followed by the **Notifications** tab.

Then, select the **Asset Protection** option, as show below, and follow the steps in the corresponding section of this guide to import your desired asset data and apply the appropriate default settings.



## Import external map services for your organization or sub-organization

If you have sub-organization administrative privileges, you can integrate an external map service via a URL for your sub-organization.



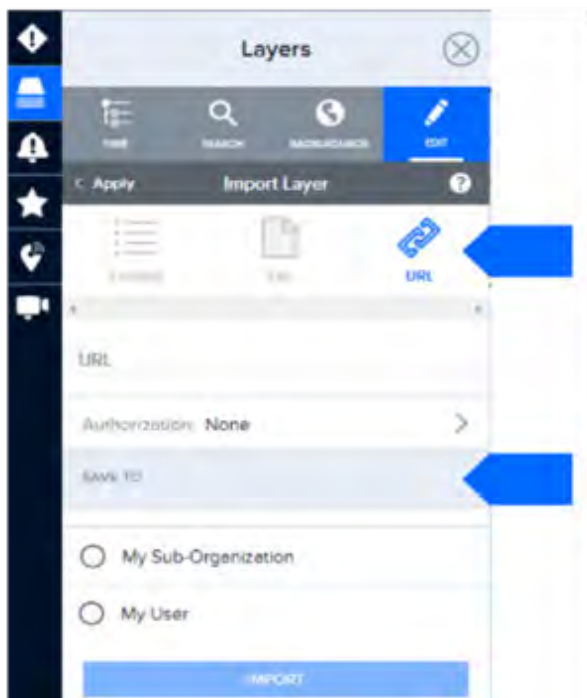
Go to **Layers** and click on the **Edit** tab.



Follow the instructions on importing **URL** layers and map services earlier in this user guide.

Before you import the map service you must select one of the following options under the **Save To** section:

- **My Sub-Organization** (The map service will only be shared with all users belonging to your sub-organization.)
- **My User** (The map services will only be imported and visible on your account.)



Once imported, that map service can be found under **Layers > My Layers > Your Sub-Organization's Name**.



**My Layers**



**Sub-Organization**

## Set a default bookmark for your organization or sub-organization

If you have organization or sub-organization administrative privileges, you may also setup a default bookmark for those users.

For example, if your sub-organization focuses on a particular region in the world, you can configure the bookmark to always display that area on the map when the application loads. You may also include specific data layers if desired.

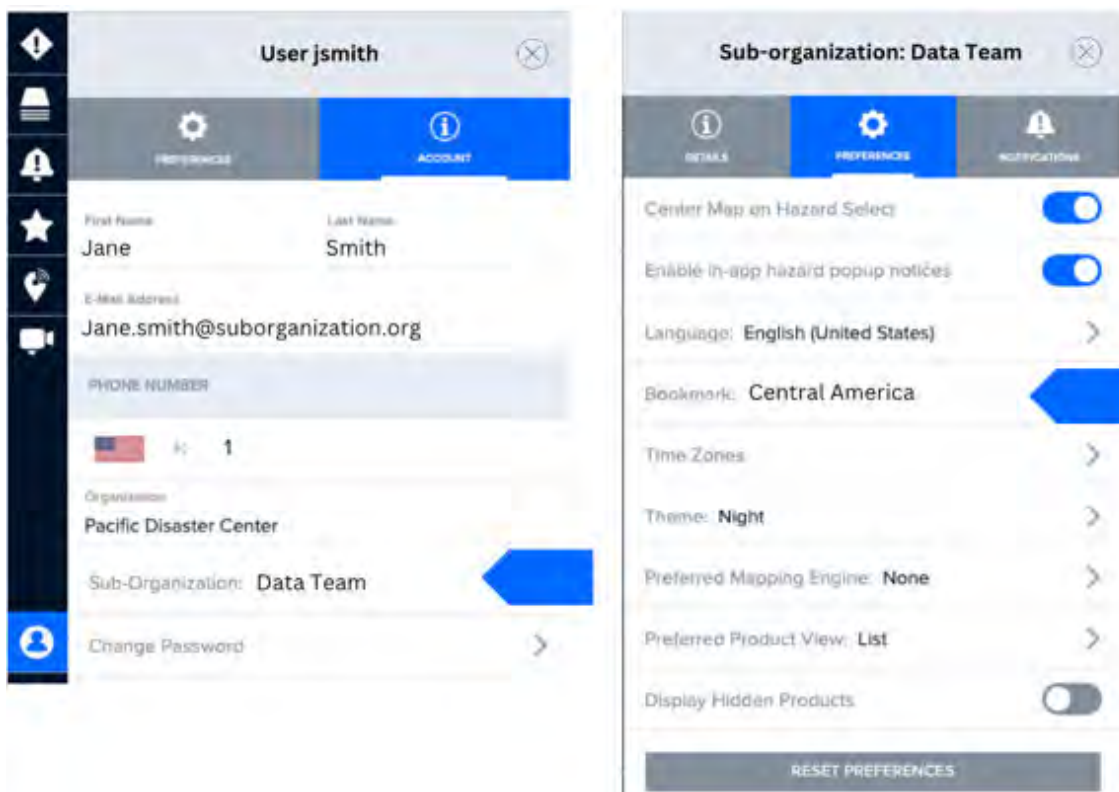


Go to **Bookmarks** and following the instructions earlier in this user guide in the section titled **Bookmark and share information**.



After you have setup the bookmark you want to use as the default for your **organization or sub-organization**, open your preferences in the **User** panel.

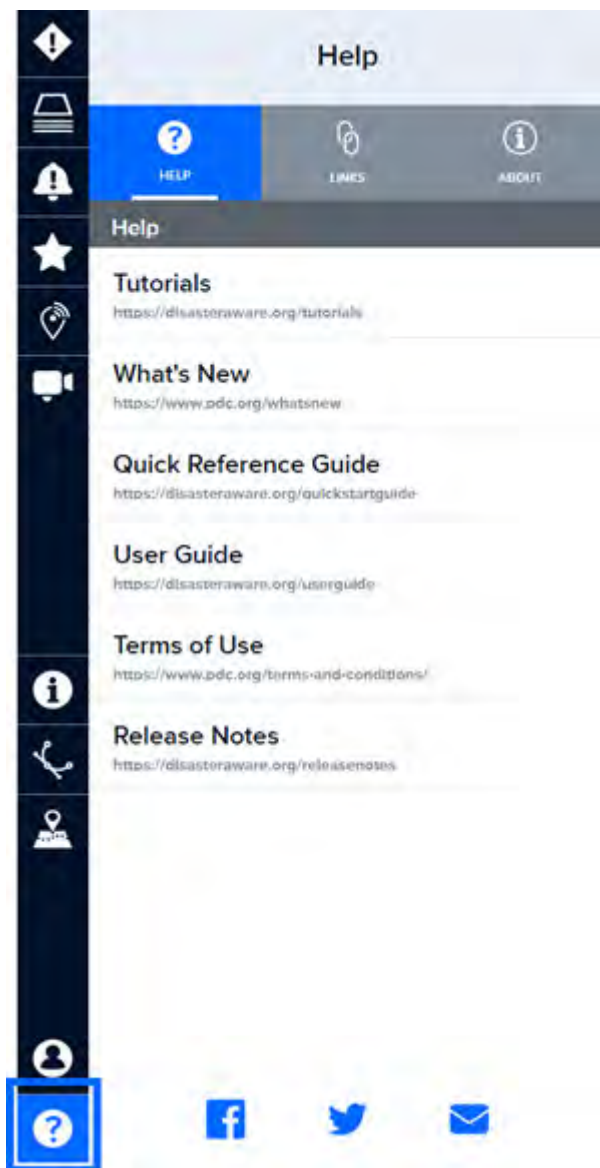
- In the **User** panel, open the **Account** tab, and select your organization or sub-organization.
- Under their **Preferences** tab, locate and click on the **Bookmark** option,
- A list of bookmarks you have created will display. **Select the bookmark you want to set as your default.**



## TROUBLESHOOTING AND HELP

### Accessing help documents and links

You can access a variety of resources such as videos, our Quick Start Guide, Release Notes (which contain details about known issues and/or potential bugs), and much more. While in DisasterAWARE, click the **Help** icon as shown below to view the help panel.



# Troubleshooting

Access additional known and recently resolved issues here: <http://pdc.org/releasenotes>

## Bookmarks

### Copy and paste of bookmark URLs not working when I click “Share.”

Some browsers support the automatic copying of hazard links and bookmark URLs to your clipboard, while some will require you to manually copy the link from the dialog box.

## Cameras

### Why can't I see the video feed from a camera that is listed on the map?

Individual live cameras can experience down time or may become permanently unavailable from the host/provider. The cameras are also color coded for quick reference: green indicates cameras enabled by you for viewing, blue indicates online cameras and red indicates offline.

## Drawing

### I am unable to add drawings to the map. The drawing tool isn't working.

If you are unable to add drawings on the map or are experiencing problems with the drawing tools, you may be zoomed in to the map too closely. Zoom out a bit and then try again.

## Layers

### Why isn't the layer I've selected showing up on the map?



Some layers require the map to be zoomed to a minimum extent or to a specific location in order to display the information.

Click the zoom icon to the right of the layer if you are having trouble viewing the layer you've selected. The map will zoom and re-center the map to bring the information into view.

### Why doesn't DisasterAWARE remember the layers I had on during my previous session?

Layers from previous sessions don't stay visible once you log out, unless they are included in your default Bookmark. To quickly access recent layers you've visited, you can open the **Layers** panel and scroll down to the **Recent** folder.

### I cannot remember where to find a specific layer.

The quickest way to find a specific layer is go to the **Layers** panel and enter a keyword into the **Search** tab. The layer you are looking for might have been hidden during a previous session. To unhide layers, click the **Layers** icon on the left toolbar and then the **Edit** tab.

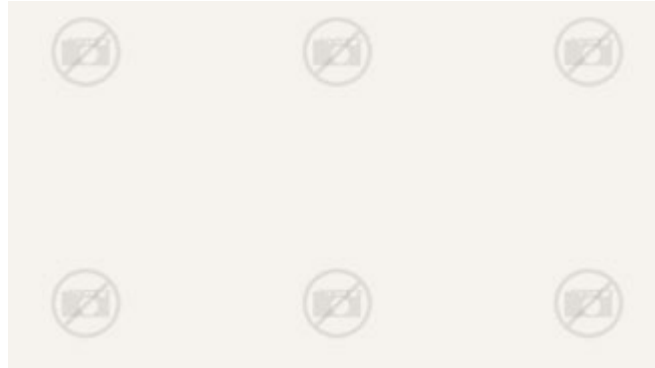


Unhide folders and layers you want to see by clicking the open **Eye** icon next to the layer.

## Map Navigation

### Why do I see a camera icon in place of my base background map?

If your base map is displaying a camera icon, this indicates that you have zoomed in beyond the viewable scale threshold of the base map image. To correct this, zoom out until the base map image becomes visible, or try selecting a different base map image.





## Products

### Why am I unable to open products associated with a hazard?

Products cannot be opened when an ad or pop-up blocker is running on your browser. Turn off or pause the ad blocker to access products.

## Tips for better performance

If you experience an issue with the application freezing and/or not performing as expected, please conduct the following steps:





- Refresh your browser.
- If the problem persists, clear your browser's cache, then close and reopen your browser and begin a new DisasterAWARE session.
- If the issue remains, please email a detailed description of the issue to [disaster@pdc.org](mailto:disaster@pdc.org).













Freezing of the application can occur due to:




















- Outdated browsers
- A poor or slow internet connection

## APPENDIX

### Minimum thresholds for hazards displayed in the system

-  **Warning:** Adverse or significant impacts to population are imminent or occurring. Act now.
-  **Watch:** Conditions are possible for adverse or significant impacts to population. Monitor closely and be prepared to act.
-  **Advisory:** Conditions are possible for limited or minor impacts to population. Exercise caution.
-  **Information:** Conditions are possible for limited or minor impacts to population.

Hazard Type and Minimum Threshold		REAL-TIME PROCESSING	MANUAL PROCESSING (Updated Daily)
	<b>Avalanche:</b> An avalanche has recently occurred with severe impact to the population or infrastructure.		✓ Global
	<b>Biomedical:</b> Preparatory phase. Event is being monitored by authorities. No immediate response.	✓ Canada	✓ Global
	<b>Drought:</b> Drought is in effect and is negatively impacting the population.		✓ Global
	<b>Extreme Temperature:</b> Extreme temperatures are directly impacting population. Extreme Cold or Extreme Heat warnings as reported by official agencies/sources.	✓ Canada & Australia	✓ Global
	<b>Earthquake:</b> An earthquake has occurred. Major damage is not anticipated. (Magnitude 5.0-5.4)	✓ Global	
	<b>Flood:*</b>	✓ Global	
	<b>U.S. / Canada / Australia:</b> Significant flooding has recently occurred with severe impacts to population or infrastructure. Agencies are responding. No additional threat anticipated.		
	<b>Outside U.S. / Canada / Australia:</b> Flooding is anticipated to occur and may impact populations and infrastructure. Monitor closely and be prepared to act if necessary.		
	<b>High Surf:</b> 8 foot full-face surf height from wave trough to crest for most shores (some locally higher thresholds).	✓ Hawaii & Australia	✓ Global
	<b>High Winds:</b> High winds have resulted in significant impacts to population or infrastructure.	✓ Hawaii, Canada, & Australia	✓ Global
	<b>Landslide:*</b> A significant landslide has recently occurred with severe impacts on population or infrastructure. Agencies are responding. No additional threat is anticipated.	✓ Global	
	<b>Manmade:</b> Currently reserved for manmade related hazards that do not fit one of the 9 Geopolitical hazard types mentioned below.	✓ Canada	✓ Global

Hazard Type and Minimum Threshold	REAL-TIME PROCESSING	MANUAL PROCESSING (Updated Daily)
 <b>Marine:</b> An authoritative agency has reported that hazardous marine conditions have occurred with significant impacts to population or infrastructure.	✓ Canada	✓ Global
 <b>Severe Weather:</b> Severe weather has recently occurred with significant impacts to population or infrastructure.	✓ U.S., Canada, & Australia	✓ Global
 <b>Storm:</b> A severe storm has recently occurred with significant impacts to population or infrastructure.	✓ Canada & Australia	✓ Global
 <b>Tornado:</b> A tornado has recently occurred with significant impacts to population or structures.	✓ U.S. & Canada	✓ Global
 <b>Tropical Cyclone:</b> Tropical storm conditions or stronger are not expected, or there is no current threat to land within the next 5 days (39 mph, 63 km/h, 34 kt or stronger winds).	✓ Global	
 <b>Tsunami:</b> No tsunami threat anticipated, or the tsunami event is very distant with localized impacts.	✓ Global	
 <b>Wildfire:</b> Large/intense fire detected. No immediate threat. Stay informed for updates and additional information.	✓ Global	
 <b>Volcano:</b> Signs of elevated unrest with a LOW risk to nearby population, or the volcano has returned to a normal, non-eruptive state.	✓ Global	
 <b>Winter Storm:</b> An authoritative agency has issued a Winter Storm Warning. Conditions pose a threat to life or property.	✓ U.S. & Canada	✓ Global
<p>* PDC has partnered with NASA to provide automated, global flood and landslide alerting and exposure via DisasterAWARE. This incorporates potential flood hazards predicted by NASA's global flood Model of Models (MoM) and the Landslide Hazard Assessment Model (LHASA). Alerts and PDC exposure reports are disseminated through DisasterAWARE.</p> 		
<b>Geopolitical Hazards:</b> A geopolitical event has been reported with the potential for significant disruption or adverse impacts to population and infrastructure. These include: <div> <div>  Accident                Combat                Political Conflict             </div> <div>  Active Shooter                Cyber                Terrorism             </div> <div>  Civil Unrest                Occurrence                Weapons             </div> </div>	✓ Global	