**Model Data Source Guide for IDV**

**Which data to use:** The model data chosen to display an event in IDV should be based on the type of event and the location of the event.

* Here is the link to NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) page for the Global Forecast System (GFS) product. The GFS is a global model, and the data from GFS archives are best used to show global phenomena. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/weather-climate-models/global-forecast>

1. Click the drop menu for “Data on NCEI Servers”
2. Under “GFS Analysis (GFS-ANL),” find the option with Grid/Scale “003 (1 degree),” and click “HTTPS” on the right side.
3. The years range from 2010 through 2022. Pick the date(s) of the event being displayed in IDV.
4. Download any file that ends with .grb2. Only .grb2 and .grb files are compatible with IDV.
5. The file must move to the same directory or folder as the associated IDV file for the file to open in the program.

* Here is the link to NOAA’s NCEI page for the North American Mesoscale Forecast System (NAM). The NAM is a north American model so it should be used to display weather events in that region. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/weather-climate-models/north-american-mesoscale>

1. Under “NAM Analysis,” there is only one option with the Model / Period of Record being “NAM-ANL / 03MAR2004 – Present.” Click “HTTPS.”
2. Then click “historical,” and then click “analysis.” Choose the date(s) of the event.
3. Only download the .grb or .grb2 files.
4. The .grb files must be moved to the same directory as the associated IDV file to open the files in the program.

* Here is the link to NOAA’s NCEI page for the Rapid Refresh model (RAP). The RAP is like the NAM as to where it is best used, but the RAP is known to be more accurate when predicting mesoscale or local scale processes. Therefore, the RAP is best to show severe weather systems. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/weather-climate-models/rapid-refresh-update>

1. Under “Analysis,” choose “HTTPS.”
2. Choose the date(s) of the events to display.
3. Only download .grb. or .grb2 files, and move them into the same directory as the IDV file.