

WEATHER WATCHES & WARNINGS

The National Weather Service uses specific terminology to relay the weather threat to the public. There are a variety of watches and warnings you need to understand in order to be prepared.

<u>Tornado Watch</u>	<u>Tornado Warning</u>
Means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. It is normally issued for 4 to 6 hours and includes many counties. If you are in or near the tornado watch area, stay informed via NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television. Keep your eye on the sky, and be prepared to take cover at short notice, as tornadoes can occur with little or no warning.	Means that a tornado has been sighted or a developing tornado is reported by trained spotters or indicated on Doppler radar. A warning is typically issued for a small area for less than an hour. If a tornado warning is issued in your area ... take cover immediately!
<u>Severe Thunderstorm Watch</u>	<u>Severe Thunderstorm Warning</u>
Means that conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to produce wind gusts to 55mph or stronger, or hail to 3/4 inch or larger in the watch area. These watches are issued for 4 to 6 hours at a time and for a number of counties. Stay informed, watch the sky, and take cover if a severe thunderstorm approaches you.	Means that a severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or a trained spotter. Take cover if you are near the severe thunderstorm.
<u>Flash Flood Watch</u>	<u>Flash Flood Warning</u>
This is issued when a heavy rain may develop and result in flash flooding in or near the watch area.	Flash flooding in the warning area has developed or is imminent. Move to higher ground at once!
<u>Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory</u>	
Local flooding of small streams, streets, or low lying areas such as railroad underpasses is occurring or is imminent.	
<u>Fire Weather Watch</u>	<u>Red Flag Warning</u>
Red flag fire conditions are expected to develop. Red flag conditions are defined by critical weather and fire danger condition that could lead to extensive wildfire occurrence and/or fire control difficulties.	Red flag fire conditions are imminent or occurring. Be extremely careful with campfires, cigarette butts, and anything that would emit sparks.
<u>Winter Weather Advisory</u>	<u>Blizzard Warning</u>
Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not become life-threatening. The greatest hazard is often to motorists.	Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately!
<u>Winter Storm Watch</u>	<u>Winter Storm Warning</u>
Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible within the next day or two. Prepare now	Severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors!