

Are You Prepared?

Severe Weather

How You can Prepare Now for Severe Weather

- Create a communications plan with your family.
- Have emergency supplies in place at home, at work, and in the car.
- Understand the type of hazardous weather that affects you and your family where you live.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure you have enough coverage.
- Listen to local officials; if ordered to evacuate, leave right away. Know the route and plan where to go.
- Never drive or walk through flooded streets; Turn Around, Don't Drown®.
- Identify a safe location in your home, in case of tornado.

Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
				

Understand Severe Weather Alerts: Do you know the difference between a National Weather Service **Watch** and **Warning**? Check your knowledge below.

Watch: Be Prepared!

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm watch is issued. The watch area is typically large, covering numerous counties or even states.

Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Flood Watch

Conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Warning: Take Action!

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Take shelter in a substantial building. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area—around the size of a city or small county.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

Flood Warning

A flash flood is imminent or occurring. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

Learn more: Scholar > Crisis Mgmt / Cyber / Security > Co-worker Preparedness



The National Weather Service (NWS) is using social media tools to educate the public and share critical information related to their mission. There are 122 NWS Weather Forecast Offices across the nation serving areas that typically consist of 20 to 50 counties. Visit <https://www.weather.gov/socialmedia> and enter your zip code to find your local office. Then, follow them on social media to ensure you're weather-ready.



Crisis Management