

The Difference Between a Weather Watch and Warning

A weather watch means that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, while a weather warning means that severe weather is either developing, imminent or already occurring. In other words, a watch indicates a potential threat, while a warning indicates a definite and often immediate threat.

 What does it mean?			
Warning	Watch	Advisory	Outlook
Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the near future	Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days
Poses a threat to life/property	Could pose a threat to life/property	Could cause significant inconvenience	Could pose a threat to life/property
Take Protective Action	Have a Plan of Action	Use Caution	Prepare a Plan of Action

