

Weather Watches and Warnings

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Means thunderstorms forecast will produce six and more hail events of 3/4 inch (penny) diameter or greater, or damaging winds of 50 knots (58 mph) or greater. The forecast event minimum thresholds should be at least 2 hours over an area of at least 8,000 square miles.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued when there is radar indication and/or reliable spotter reports of hail of 3/4 inch (penny) diameter or greater, and/or wind gusts of 50 knots (58 mph) or greater.

Tornado Watch

A tornado watch means that the conditions are favorable for producing a particular event, but it has not formed yet. Watches alert the public that they need to pay closer attention than usual to the weather, just to be safe. A tornado watch is issued when atmospheric conditions cause tornadoes to form, although none have formed yet.

Tornado Warning

A tornado warning means that a particular weather event has formed and that it threatens the area under the warning. A tornado warning means a tornado is actually present and moving in the warn vicinity. Residents should take immediate shelter in a tornado warning.

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