

# Spring Has Sprung! Get Ready for Wild Weather

## #SpringSafety



Photo by Brad Goddard

Tornadoes, lightning, floods, rip currents and early season heat - spring is three months of danger that can imperil the unprepared. It roars in like a lion, rampaging across the United States throughout March, April and May. You are not powerless in the face of extreme weather and water events. Learn about the hazards most common to spring - and some that are threats year-round - and what you can do about them.

### Spring hazards include:

- Severe Weather/Tornadoes
- Floods
- Lightning
- Heat

Nobody knows the hazards of this dynamic season more than NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS). We ask that you get weather-ready for spring with just a few simple steps:

#### 1. Know Your Risk

Check [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) every morning. It is a simple action that will ensure that you're ready for the day's weather. Don't leave home without knowing the forecast.

#### 2. Take Action!

Assemble an emergency supplies kit with 72 hours' worth of food and water. In an emergency (such as after a tornado or some other hazard event), you may be stuck at home without electricity for three days or more. Make sure that you're prepared. Also, ensure that everyone in your life knows how to stay in touch with an emergency communication plan. This plan lists meeting places and alternate ways of communicating in case of emergency.

#### 3. Be A Force of Nature

Inspire others by sharing your weather-ready story on social media with the hashtag [#SpringSafety](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SpringSafety). It can be as simple as posting a photo of your emergency supplies kit or letting your friends know how to reach you during an emergency. Together, we can build a Weather-Ready Nation, one that is ready for any extreme weather, water, or climate event.

# Understanding Severe Weather Outlooks

Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	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
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winds to 40 mph</li> <li>Small hail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winds 40-60 mph</li> <li>Hail up to 1"</li> <li>Low tornado risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or two tornadoes</li> <li>Reports of strong winds/wind damage</li> <li>Hail ~ 1", isolated 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few tornadoes</li> <li>Several reports of wind damage</li> <li>Damaging hail, 1 - 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong tornadoes</li> <li>Widespread wind damage</li> <li>Destructive hail, 2" +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tornado outbreak</li> <li>Derecho</li> </ul>



What are Hazards of Severe Weather?

## Facebook

Tornadoes, large hail, strong winds, heavy rain, and lightning are all hazards associated with severe weather. Severe weather has been reported in all 50 states, so no matter where you are, make sure you are prepared!






<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/>

## Twitter

Severe weather can occur anywhere. Wherever you are, be prepared!

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/#SpringSafety>

# Understanding Severe Weather Hazards

<b>Tornado</b> 	Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that can destroy buildings and cause significant injury or death <b>ACTION:</b> Take shelter immediately in a sturdy structure
<b>Large Hail</b> 	Hail can damage vehicles, crops, buildings, and cause injuries <b>ACTION:</b> Move indoors away from windows
<b>Strong Wind</b> 	Strong wind can knock over trees and damage buildings <b>ACTION:</b> Move indoors away from windows
<b>Heavy Rain</b> 	Heavy rain can cause flash flooding <b>ACTION:</b> Avoid rising creeks and water-covered roads
<b>Lightning</b> 	Lightning strikes can cause significant injury or death <b>ACTION:</b> Move indoors if you hear thunder

## Difference Between a Severe Thunderstorm **Watch** and **Warning**

### Facebook

- A severe thunderstorm **WATCH** means **BE PREPARED**. A severe thunderstorm **WARNING** means **TAKE ACTION**.
- If there is a severe thunderstorm watch, stay informed and be ready to act, because severe thunderstorms are possible.
- If there is a severe thunderstorm warning, take shelter in a strong building, and get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds. Severe weather is occurring or will shortly.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/ww.shtml>

know the difference between a severe thunderstorm

# Watch and Warning

**Be Prepared...**  
severe weather possible

- Check for forecast updates
- Monitor sky conditions
- Know where to take shelter

**Take Action!**  
severe weather imminent

- Take shelter immediately
- Seek further information
- Check for forecast updates

Be Weather Ready

**Weather-Ready Nation**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**National Weather Service**  
[weather.gov/tornado](http://weather.gov/tornado)



**March 21-25, 2016**

**Statewide Iowa Tornado Drill on Wednesday Mar 23, 2016, 10 am!**