Severe Storm Risk and Elevated Fire Danger

March 25, 2026
2:45 PM

Severe Weather Threat Thursday; Fire Danger This Afternoon and Thursday

Key Messages

- Scattered strong to severe storms are possible Thursday afternoon and evening, most likely over west-central Illinois into far eastern Iowa/northeast Missouri
- Large hail and some damaging wind gusts are the most likely threats, with a lesser threat for tornadoes
- Elevated fire danger today and Thursday

NEW What Has Changed

- Overall severe storm risk has increased, with an expansion of the Level 1 and 2 risks
- There is a new Level 3 risk for Bureau and Putnam counties

Next Scheduled Update

- By 4 AM Thursday



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Quad Cities, IA/IL

Severe Weather Timing, Threats, and Uncertainty

March 25, 2026
2:45 PM CDT

Timing & Uncertainty

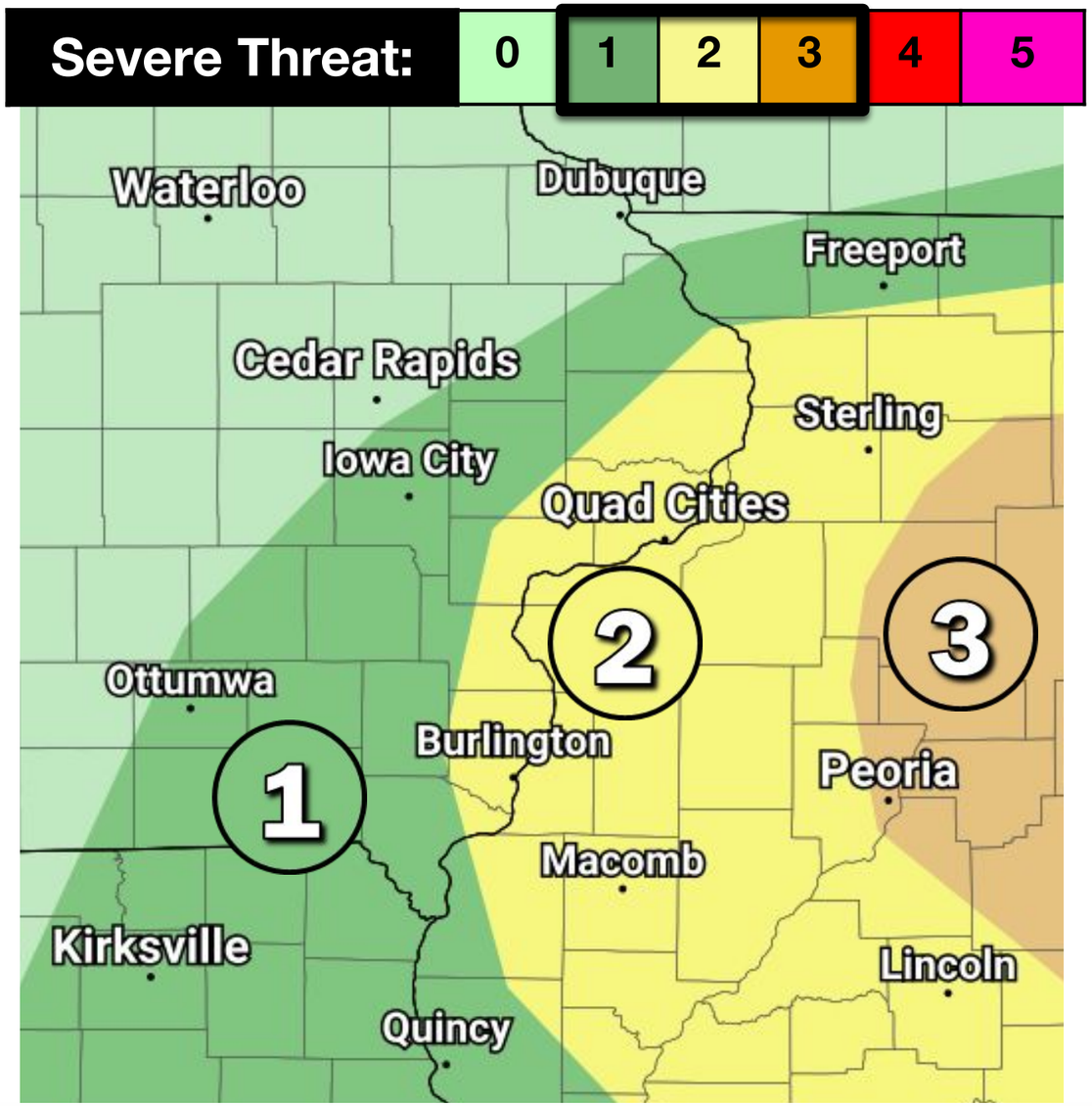
- Timing: **3 PM to 11 PM Thursday**
  - A capping inversion, or layer of warm air aloft, could limit storm coverage early in the afternoon
- Any storms that form along a warm front will be capable of producing **large hail up to the size of golfballs, along with the threat for a tornado or two**.
- A damaging wind threat increases in the evening as storms grow into organized lines.

Threats

Large Hail

Damaging Winds

One or Two Tornadoes



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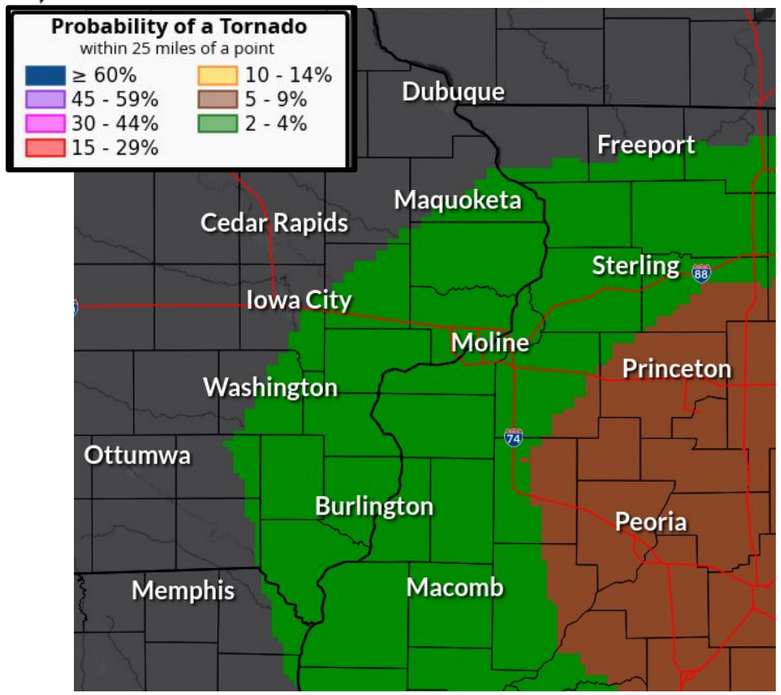
Thursday Severe Weather Threats

March 25, 2026
2:45 PM

Be Weather Aware!

Tornadoes

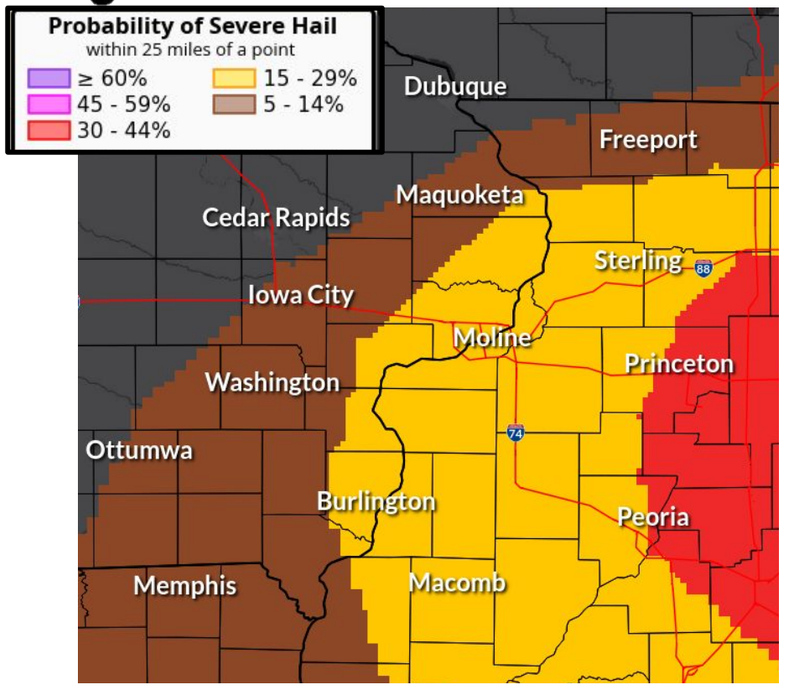
One or two tornadoes possible



Main risk for tornadoes over central Illinois

Damaging Hail

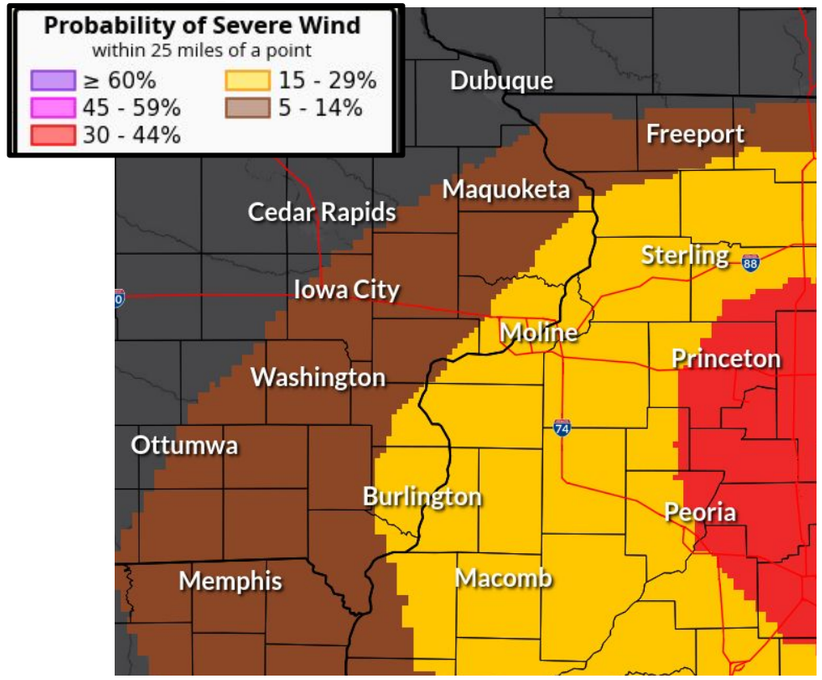
Capable of denting cars



Hail to the size of golfballs are possible

Damaging Winds

Capable of downing limbs



Damaging wind threat appears more likely in the evening as storms grow into organized lines

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Elevated Fire Risk

Through Sunset Today/Thursday

March 25

March 26

Increased Threat of Fire Spread

Any grass or brush fires that ignite may have the potential to quickly spread out of control!

Gusty Winds

Gusts up to 30 mph from the south through sunset today. Gusts to around 30 mph Thursday shifting from southwest to northeast

Timing

11 AM to 6 PM each day

What You Can Do to Help

- Avoid using any equipment which could easily spark outdoors
- Avoid or delay outdoor burning; heed burn bans
- Do not carelessly discard cigarettes!

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Weather Forecast Office • Quad Cities IA/IL
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Severe Weather Planning and Fire Safety

March 25, 2026
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Be Prepared and Weather Aware!





[Lightning Safety](#) | [Severe Weather Safety](#) | [Flooding Safety](#)

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