Severe Weather Risk Wednesday

June 16, 2026
2:16 PM

Two Rounds of Severe Storms and Flash Flooding Possible

Key Messages

- **Severe Thunderstorms** - Multiple rounds of storms expected; 1st round in the morning hours and another round in the afternoon. Some storms could become severe with the primary threats being hail and damaging winds throughout the day with tornadoes possible in the afternoon, especially in west-central Illinois.
- **Flash Flooding** - Repeated rounds of thunderstorms to bring an elevated risk of flash flooding, especially in areas that received heavy rain in the past week.

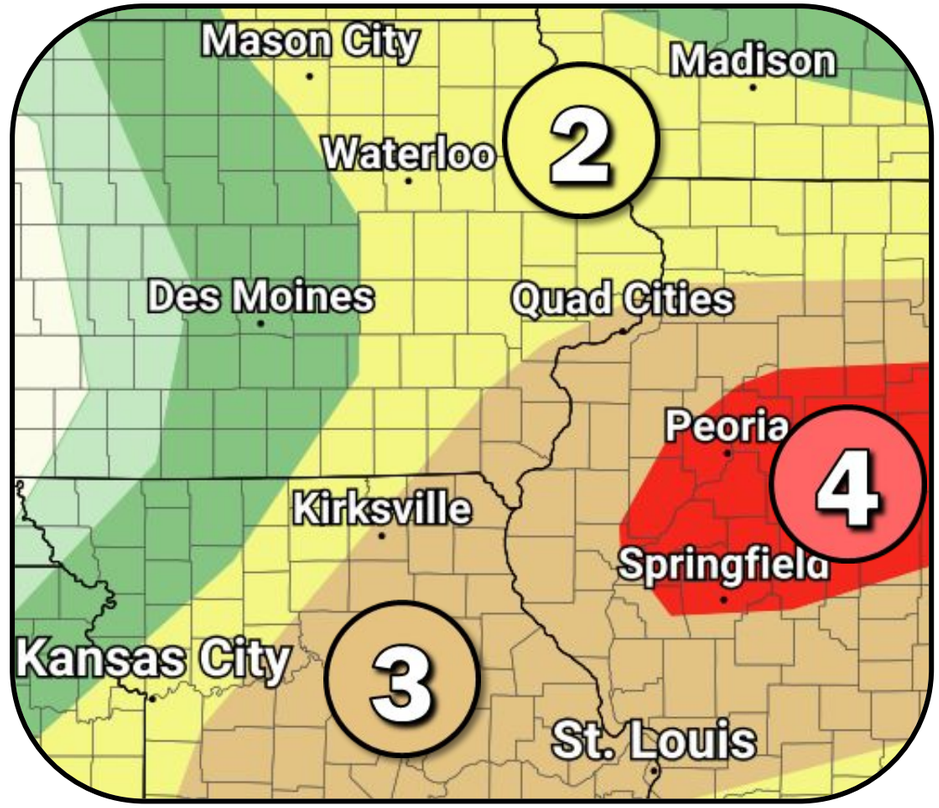
NEW What Has Changed

- No change from previous outlook Moderate (level 4) in central Illinois and Enhanced (level 3) over southeast Iowa and Illinois up to Highway 30.

Next Scheduled Update

- By 5 AM Wednesday

Wednesday's Severe Weather Outlook



Marginal	Slight	Enhanced	Moderate
Isolated Severe Storms	Scattered Severe Storms	Numerous Severe Storms	Numerous Severe Storms

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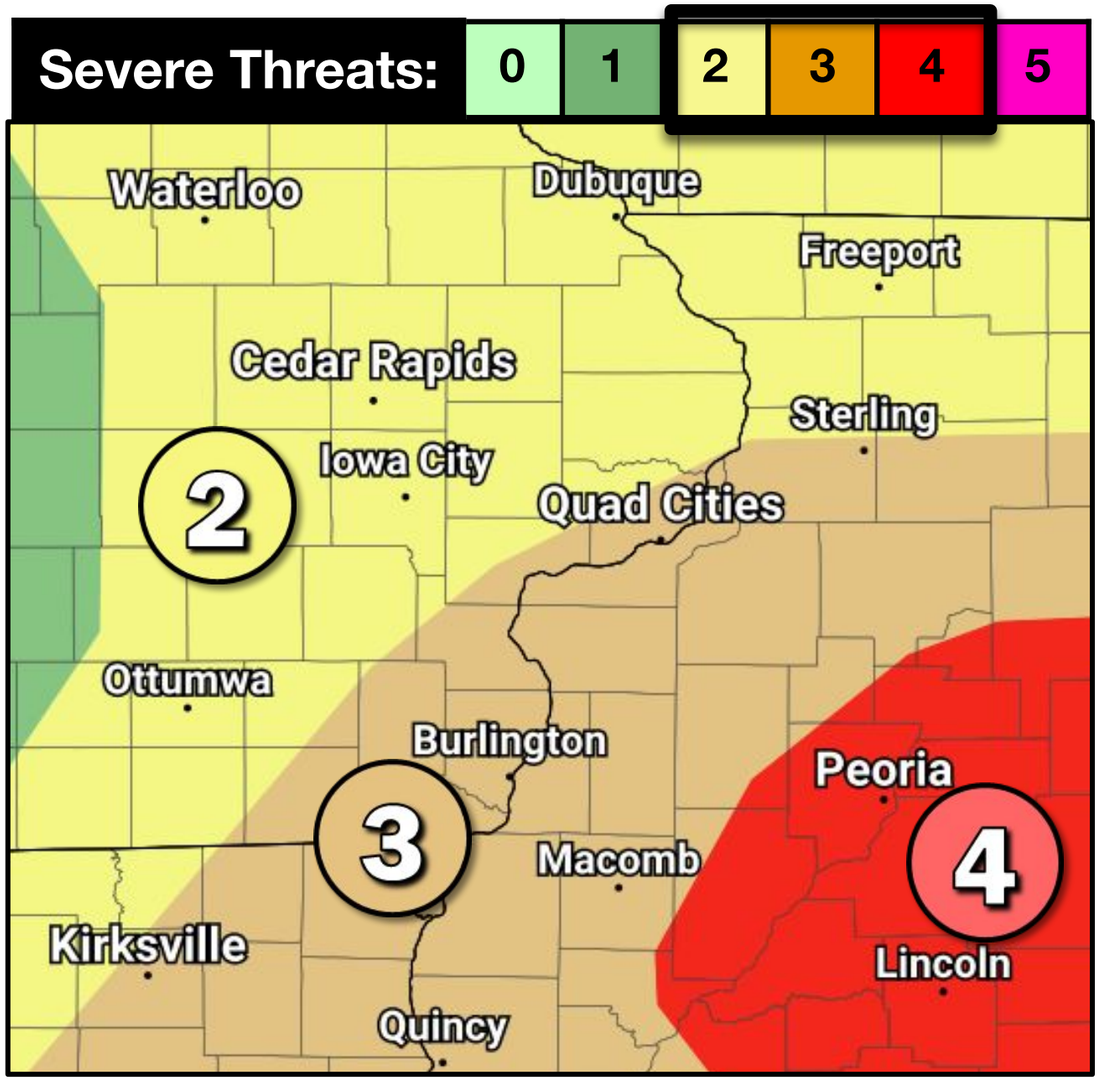
Severe Weather Risk Wednesday

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Risk Level: Slight / Enhanced / Moderate (Level 2/3/4 of 5)

Key Messages

- Two rounds of storms to impact the region on Wednesday, one in the morning and another in the afternoon.
- The strongest severe storms are expected during the afternoon, especially in west-central Illinois.
- Severe threat diminishes quickly from west to east in the early evening hours behind the cold front.



Primary Hazards

Severe Timing: 4AM - 10AM and 12PM - 7PM

Damaging Winds
70+ mph gusts

Hail
2+ inch possible

Isolated Flash Flooding
Swaths of 2+ inches possible

A Few Tornadoes

Actions

➔ Be weather aware and ready to act Wednesday.

➔ Have multiple ways to receive warning information!

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Additional Timing Information

June 16, 2026
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Be Weather Aware!

Round 1

Timing

4AM - 10AM Wednesday

Widespread Storms

Details

- Widespread showers and storms will move in from the northwest and intensify throughout the early to mid morning.
- Primary hazards at this time will be **large hail**, with 2+ inches possible, and **localized severe winds**.
- **Flash flooding threat mainly around the I-80 and I-88 corridor** from the Quad Cities east where repeated thunderstorms pass over.

Round 2

Timing

12PM - 7PM Wednesday

Widespread Storms in Northern Half of Illinois; Line of Storms to the South

Details

- Storms could continue to redevelop through midday with no real break, especially along and north of I-80.
- Uncertainty on location of severe storms, and whether that will include eastern Iowa and northeast Missouri.
- **Tornado threat increases in Illinois**, especially along and south of I-80 with the **potential for significant tornadoes (EF-2+)**.
- **Large hail** and **damaging winds** also likely. Flash flood risk increases.

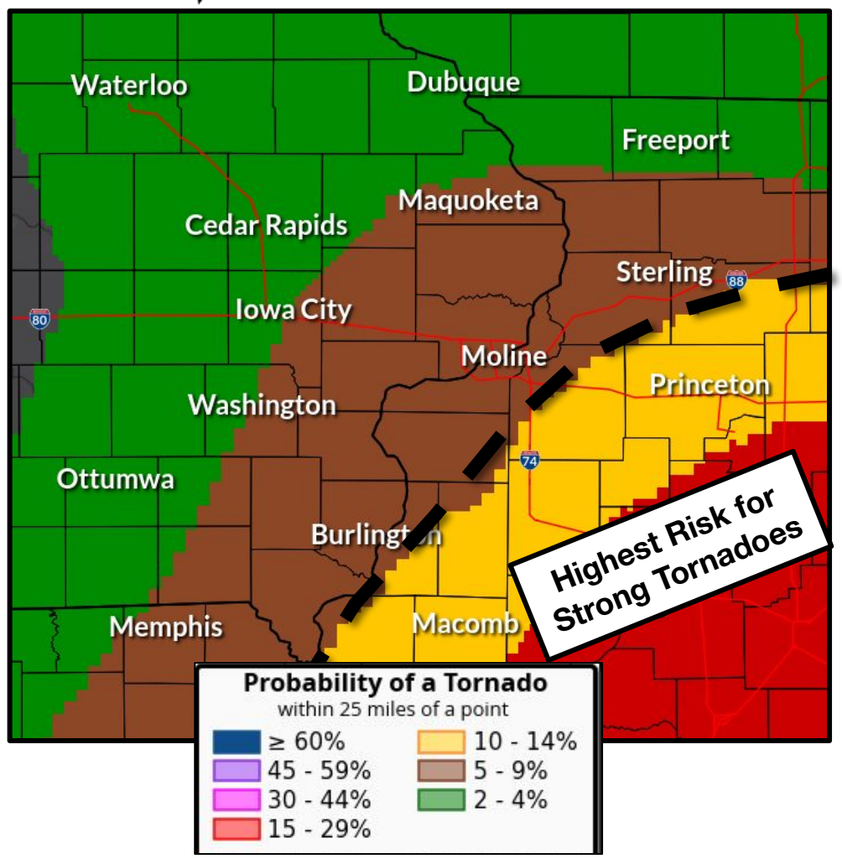
Wednesday Severe Weather Hazards

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Be Weather Aware!

Tornadoes

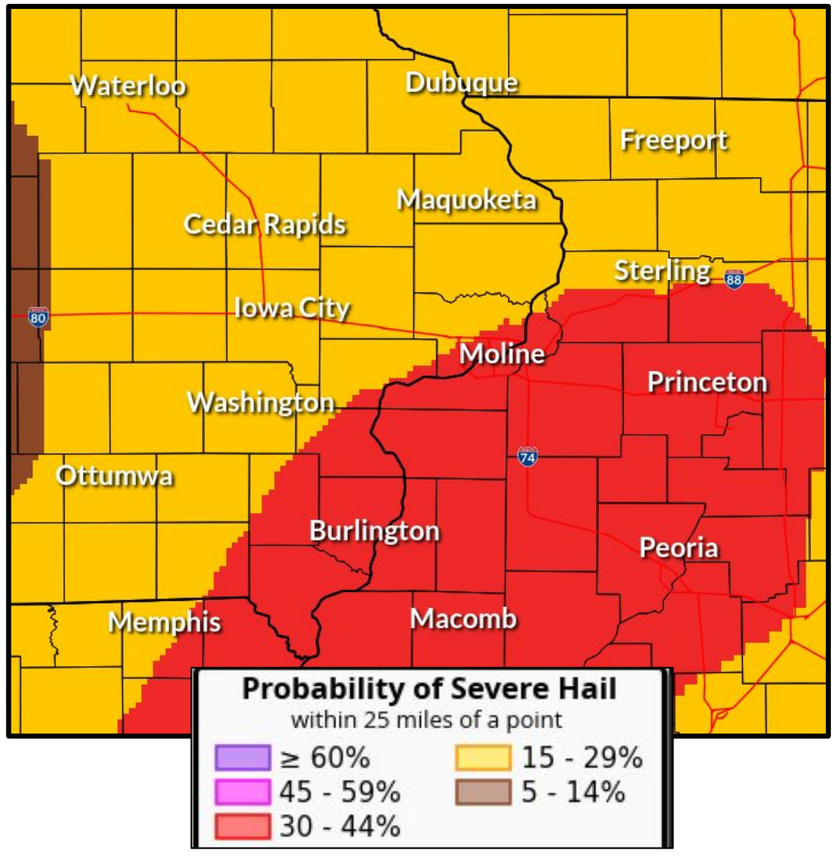
A few strong possible



Tornado threat primarily in the late morning through early evening.

Damaging Hail

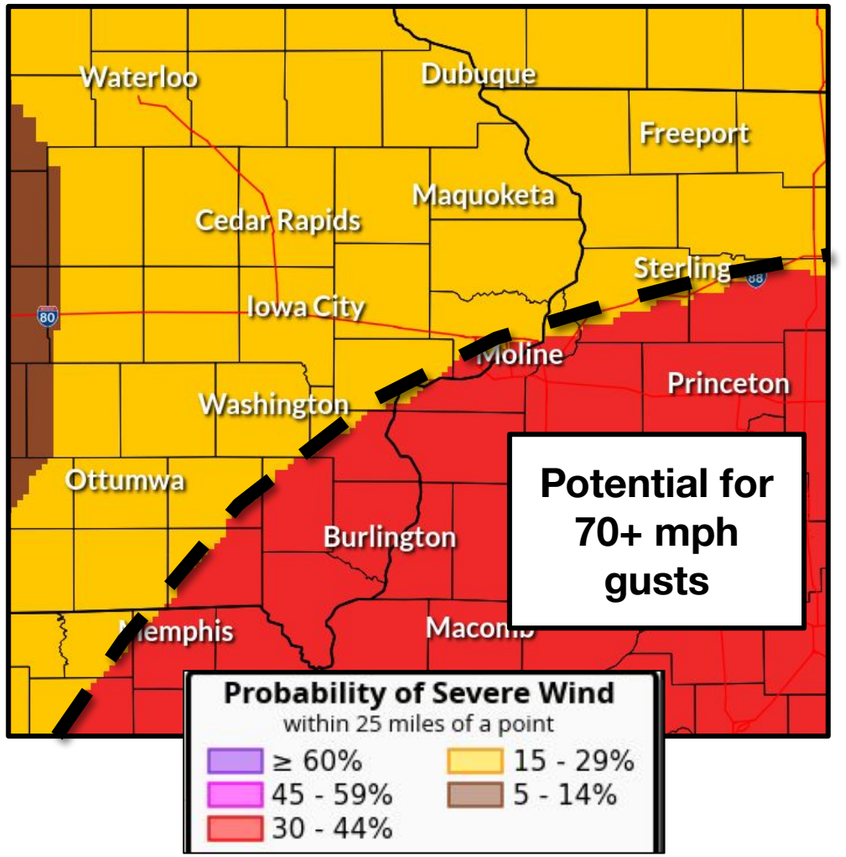
Capable of denting cars and structural damage



Hail threat exists through the day

Damaging Winds

Capable of downing limbs



Wind threat primarily in the afternoon through early evening

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Wednesday's Potential Scenarios

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Additional Forecaster Insight

Minimal Impact Scenario

What If? (The 'Bust')

Numerous morning storms, only a few severe, with the most significant storms in the afternoon southeast of our area.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS: Isolated large hail and periods of heavy rain. Gusty winds (mostly below 60 mph). One or two tornadoes possible. Flash flooding still a threat.

IMPACTS: A few warnings. Localized minor flooding. Some emergency activation required mainly in Illinois.

Most Likely Scenario

Current Expectations

Widespread morning storms, several severe (especially large hail), with at least scattered afternoon storms mainly in Illinois, some of which are severe with all hazards.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS: Scattered storms (including a couple 2+" hail storms) and isolated damaging winds. During the afternoon, isolated intense storms capable of tornadoes and large hail, and isolated damaging winds and flash flooding.

IMPACTS: Activated emergency response. Public warnings required. Power outages. Tree and minor structural damage.

High Impact Scenario

What IF? (The 'Outbreak')

Widespread morning storms, several severe (especially large hail), with numerous afternoon storms from the Mississippi River eastward, some intense with all hazards.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS: Very large hail (2+"), and several tornadoes (some strong). Localized widespread damaging winds (75+ mph). Scattered significant flash flooding.

IMPACTS: Widespread activated emergency response. Major, widespread structural damage.

Flooding Potential on Wednesday

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Flash Flood Watch for portions of northwest and central Illinois

Key Messages

- ➔ Already near saturated grounds and two rounds of heavy storms to bring a flash flood threat.
- ➔ Current area of interest is in east-central Iowa and northwest Illinois where the chances of 2+ inches of rainfall are highest (20-50%).

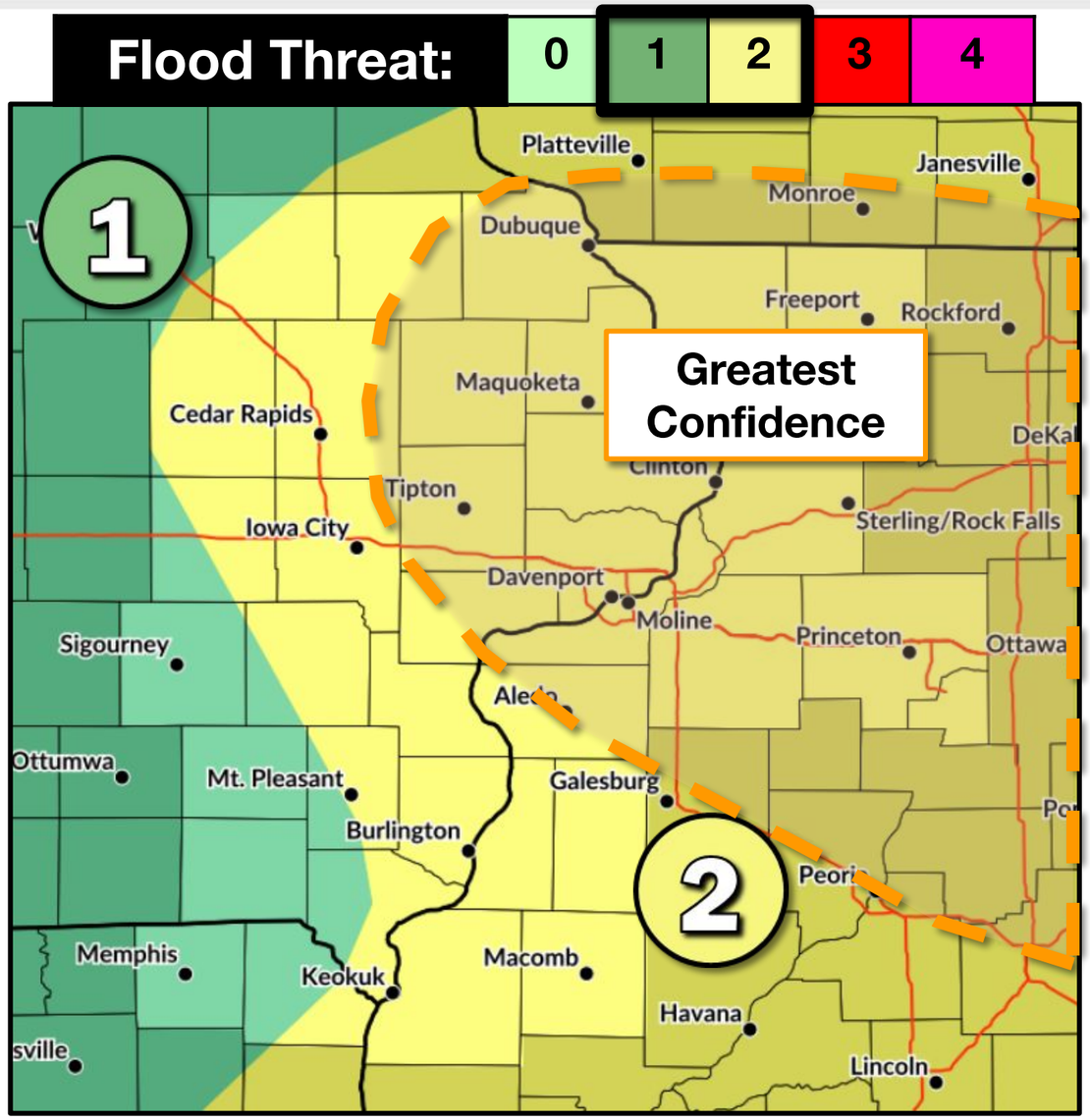
Threats

Periods of Heavy Rainfall
May flood roads, low-lying areas, fields, and basements, and cause rapid stream/creek rises

Rising Tributary Rivers

Actions

- ✔ NEVER drive or walk across flooded roadways.
- ✔ Check river observations & forecasts at **water.noaa.gov.**



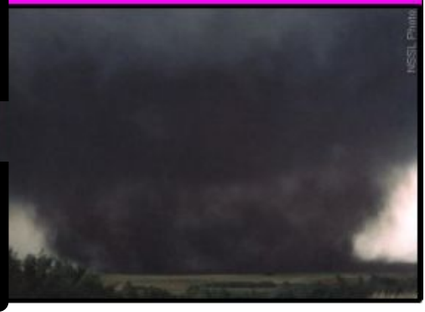
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Understanding Severe Storm Risk Categories

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From NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC)

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 <u>all</u> 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
					

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STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out

If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.

- Make sure that you have emergency supplies
- Know your safe places
- Have a family communication plan

The day before

The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.

- Adjust plans
- Make sure your phone can receive WEAs
- Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible

The day of

Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!

- Remind your family of the communication plan
- Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are
- When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!

weather.gov

NOAA

Preparedness Reminders

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Stay Weather Aware and Prepared!









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