

The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Springfield, Missouri

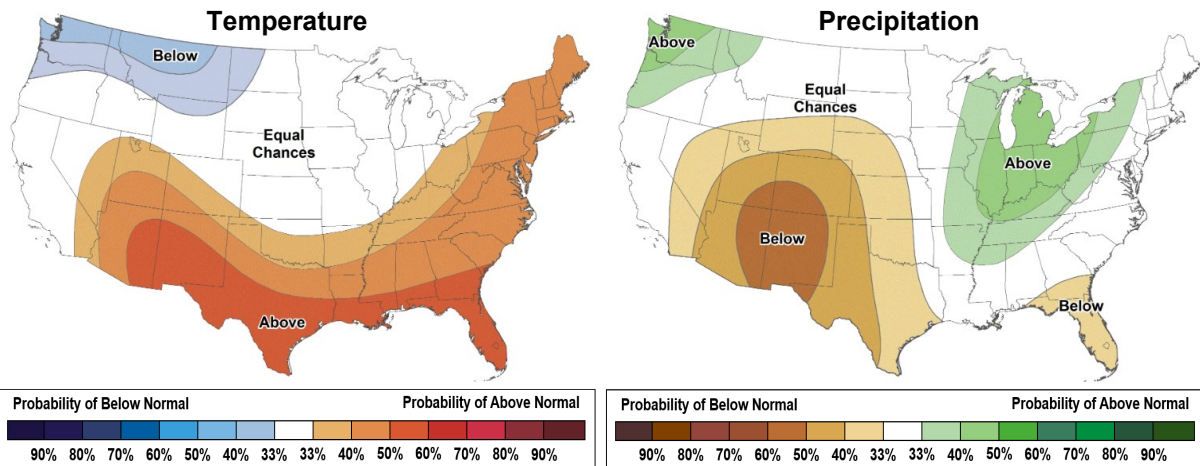


Preparing for Spring 2025

Topics

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Preparing for Spring | 1 |
| Severe Thunderstorms | 2 |
| Flash Flooding | 3 |
| Sheltering in Tornadoes | 4 |
| Lightning Safety | 5 |
| Remaining Weather Aware | 6 |
| Outdoor Weather Safety | 7 |
| Sending Storm Reports | 8 |
| Frost and Freeze | 9 |
| Building a Weather-Ready Nation | 10 |

Spring Outlook



The Spring outlook favors near normal to above normal precipitation and equal chances for above and below normal temperatures. For more information visit: [Climate Prediction Outlook](#).

Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 3 - 7, 2025

Join the NWS and [Missouri State Emergency Management Agency](#) and [Kansas Division of Emergency Management](#) as we prepared for severe weather season.

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Monday Receiving Information | Tuesday Lightning Safety | Wednesday Tornado Safety Tornado Drill at 11:00 am | Thursday Hail & Wind Safety | Friday Flood Safety |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|

Spring Weather Websites

- [DSS Packet](#)
- [Weather Story](#)
- [Weather Prediction Center](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center](#)
- [Storm Prediction Center](#)

On **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 11:00 AM** State Emergency Management and the NWS will conduct a Statewide Tornado Drill. Every school, citizen, and business is encouraged to participate in the drill. Residents should treat the drill as if it were an actual Tornado Warning. The purpose of the drill is to test everyone's readiness for life-threatening severe weather events such as tornadoes, flash floods, and damaging winds. Local officials are encouraged to sound warning sirens to initiate the drill. The National Weather Service **will issue a Routine Weekly Test (RWT) to NOAA Weather Radios to initiate the drill.** In Missouri, this is a change from past years in which a true Tornado Warning was issued. Additional info on our [Severe Weather Preparedness Week webpage](#).



Flash Flooding

Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

| Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>No Area/Label</p> <p>Flash floods are generally not expected.</p> <p>www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov @NWSWPC</p> | <p>MARGINAL (MRGL)</p> <p>Isolated flash floods possible</p> <p>Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.</p> | <p>SLIGHT (SLGT)</p> <p>Scattered flash floods possible</p> <p>Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.</p> | <p>MODERATE (MDT)</p> <p>Numerous flash floods likely</p> <p>Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.</p> | <p>HIGH (HIGH)</p> <p>Widespread flash floods expected</p> <p>Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.</p> |

Flash Flood

Impact-Based Warning (IBW) Tags

Base



Flash flooding is in progress, imminent, or highly likely.

Does NOT activate WEA



Considerable



Flash flooding is capable of unusual severity or impact is imminent or ongoing.

Activates WEA



Catastrophic



Flash flooding is a threat to life/property and catastrophic damage is occurring or imminent. *(Flash Flood Emergency)*

Activates WEA



Severe Thunderstorms

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

| 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 |

Severe Thunderstorm Impact-Based Warning (IBW) Tags

Base



60 mph

and/or

1.00" (quarter-size)

Does NOT activate WEA



Considerable



70 mph

and/or

1.75" (golfball-size)

Does NOT activate WEA



Destructive



80 mph

and/or

2.75" (baseball-size)

Activates WEA



Sheltering in Tornadoes

Tornado Ahead?



Stay Informed

about possible severe weather when you travel.



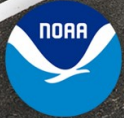
Keep WEAs

enabled on your phone. It could save your life or the lives of others.



Take immediate action and find shelter

if there's a tornado or threatening weather ahead!
Overpasses are not safe shelter.



weather.gov

Be Prepared for Nighttime Tornadoes

NOAA Weather Radio

Test regularly and make sure it's tuned to your local station

Safe Place

Have a safe place prepared if you know storms are coming

Cell phone

Turned on, charged and Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled

Flashlight & Shoes

Keep flashlight and sturdy shoes handy



Lightning Safety

Your Safe Place from **Lightning**



Lightning strikes the U.S. 25 million times a year, which sometimes results in death or permanent injury. **You are safest indoors or inside a hard-topped and enclosed vehicle.** If you hear thunder or see lightning, take shelter immediately!

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*Your chance of being struck by lightning **greatly increases** when remaining outdoors during a thunderstorm.*

Lightning can strike from up to 10 miles away.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

See a Flash, Dash Inside!



Some of the activities people were doing when they were recently struck by lightning include:



Golfing



Boating



Running



Grilling



Walking



Construction



Riding



Gardening



Swimming

Remaining Weather-Aware

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!

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

can alert you when weather threatens!



WEAs are emergency messages sent by government authorities to your mobile phone, reserved for life-threatening situations.



Keep WEAs enabled on your phone. It could save your life or the lives of others.

Outdoor Weather Safety

Weather-Ready Outdoors

Weather-Ready for Boating?



Strong Winds

Dangerous wind can arrive well before the rain. Reduce speed and head to shore if alerted to high wind. Always wear a life jacket when on a boat.



Lightning

If you hear thunder or see lightning, it's time to stay in the cabin or head to shore.



Fog

If fog forms, slow down and turn on your lights. Listen for other boats around you or check radar.



weather.gov



Weather-Ready for Nature?



Flash Flooding

Heavy rainfall can cause flooding in a flash. Use caution when hiking in canyons or camping near streams and rivers.



Excessive Heat

Bring extra water and remain hydrated. Use sunscreen and wear light, loose-fitting clothing. Take breaks in the shade.



Lightning

If you hear thunder or see lightning, go immediately to an enclosed building or hard-topped vehicle (if possible). Avoid isolated tall trees or ridge tops.



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BEWARE OF FLOODS WHEN CAMPING



Heavy rain can quickly cause flash flooding. Use caution if camping near a stream, river, or in a low-lying area.



Stay informed. Be able to get the forecast online or with a NOAA Weather Radio.



Get to higher ground immediately if alerted to flooding.



Never walk or drive through floodwater. It only takes 6 inches to knock you over and only 12 inches to sweep a car way.



weather.gov



Sending Storm Reports

Reporting Severe Weather

Hail



Diameter of the largest stones. Looking for reports of near or above severe limits (1.00 in).

Wind



Measured speed and/or damage. Include tree or limb diameter, tree health, uprooted or snapped.

Tornado



Confirming funnel clouds, rotating wall cloud, or damage. Tell us why you can confirm it is rotating or on the ground?

Flood



Washed out or flooded roads, rain measurements. Are businesses or homes being impacted?

Reports that come in as the storm is in progress are much more valuable than reports that come in hours after the storm is done. Can trigger or keep warnings active. NWS relays storm reports through warnings.

Measuring Hail



Peas
1/4"



Penny
3/4"



Quarter
1"



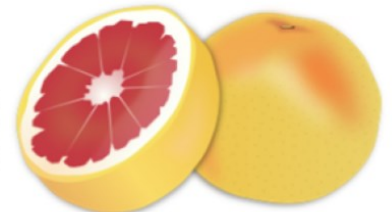
Golf ball
1 3/4"



Tennis ball
2 1/2"



Baseball
2 3/4"



Grapefruit
4 1/2"

Compare the hail to common, everyday objects.

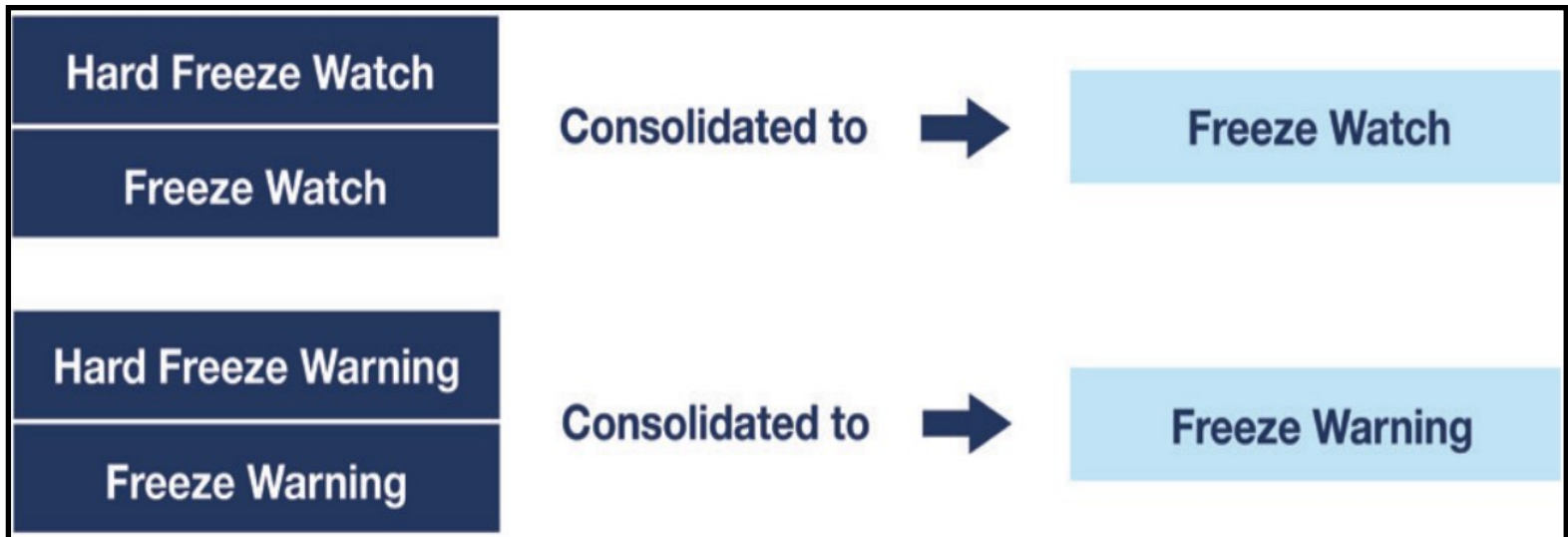
Remember to include measured hail size, a picture, time it occurred, and approximate location!

Make sure to compare to an object that is consistent in size, i.e. NO marbles!

Ways to Send Reports

Spring Frost and Freeze

Freeze Product Consolidation



The NWS issue the following products in the Spring as warranted: **Frost Advisory**, **Freeze Watch**, and **Freeze Warning**. Consolidation of NWS Freeze and Hard Freeze products into one streamlined Freeze Watch/ Warning with enhanced language for hard freeze conditions as needed will simplify and improve messaging and service delivery. The scope of the NWS Frost/Freeze services is focused on vegetation and agriculture taking into account growing season, impacts, and precautionary/ preparedness actions.

Frost Advisory and Freezing Warning Guidance

Freeze Warning

Temperatures of **32°F or colder** for several hours over a widespread area during growing season. A **hard freeze** is when temperatures are **below 28°F**.

Plants left outdoors may be killed.

Frost Advisory

Temperatures of **33 to 36°F** with clear skies and light winds over a widespread area during growing season, which would promote the development of frost.

Plants left outdoors may be damaged.

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Becoming a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

What do Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors Do?

Promote Preparedness and Resiliency:

- ✓ Follow our social media and share our hazardous weather and safety posts.

Collaborate with the NWS:

- ✓ Let us know how we can help you and your community become more weather ready.

Serve as an example:

- ✓ Educate employees on workplace preparedness and encouraging personal preparedness at home.



[Click here to Learn More about Becoming an Ambassador](#)

Scan the QR code to Apply today!

Following the NWS and Spring Safety Resources



Office: (417) 863-8028



contact.sgf@noaa.gov



weather.gov/springfield



[@NWSSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/NWSSpringfield)



[@NWSSpringfield](https://twitter.com/NWSSpringfield)



[Youtube.com/NWSSpringfield](https://www.youtube.com/NWSSpringfield)



Spring Weather Safety Resources

weather.gov/safety/spring-infographics

Additional Webpage Resources

[Weather Story](#)

[Weather Prediction Center](#)

[DSS Packet](#)

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

[GHWO](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

[Point and Click Forecast](#)

[National Hurricane Center](#)

[National Preparedness Month](#)

[Aviation Weather Center](#)

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