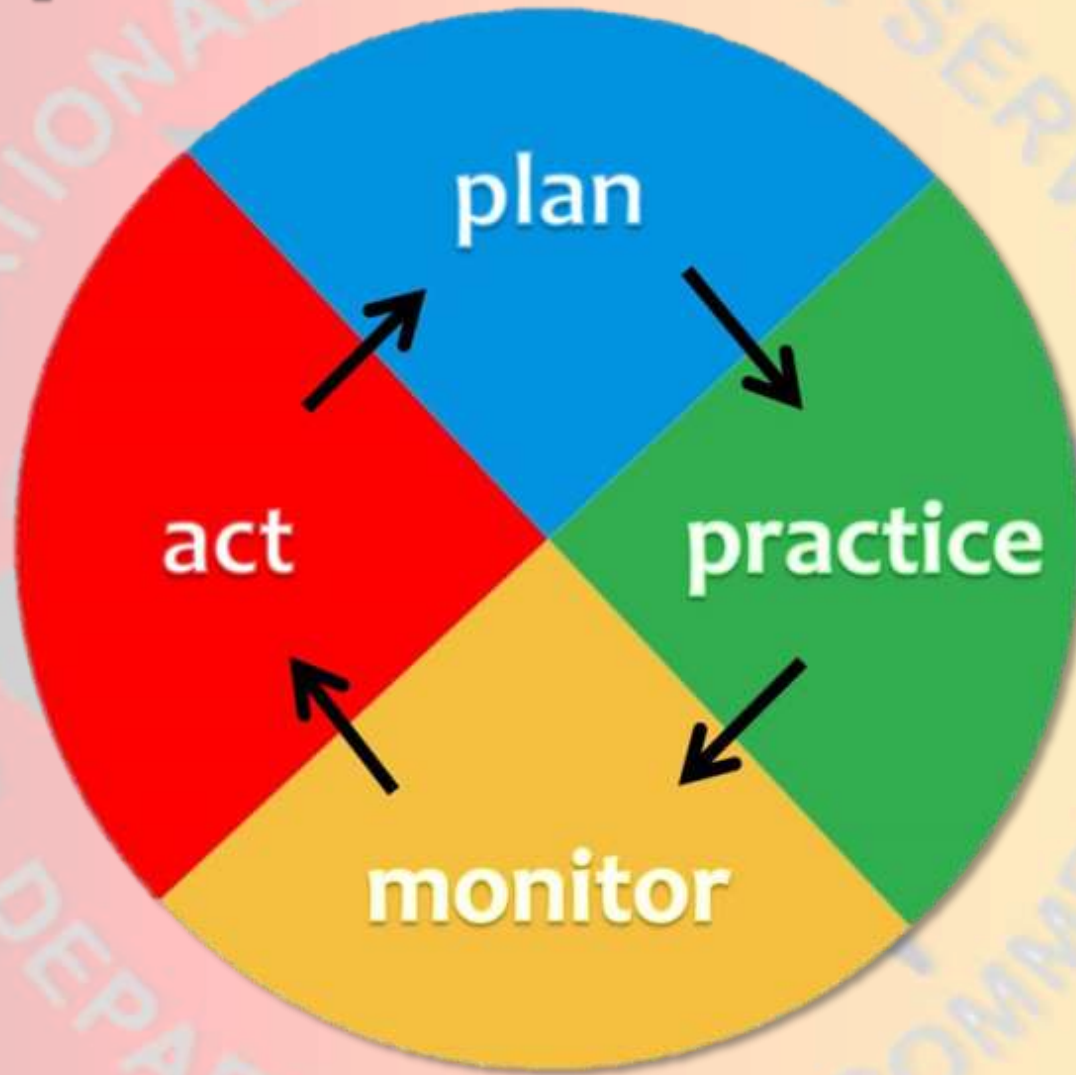


Preparedness Framework



for Severe Weather

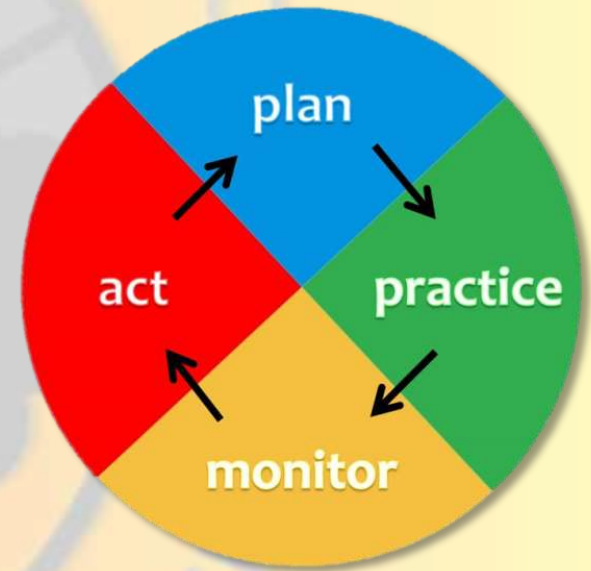
@NWChicago



weather.gov/Chicago

PPMA

- **Plan**
 - Home, work, school, outdoor activities
 - Identify safe areas
 - Have a disaster kit
 - Know how to stay weather aware
- **Practice! Practice! Practice!**
- **Monitor**
 - Weather Watcher
 - Multiple ways to receive warnings
- **Act**
 - When severe weather threatens
 - Activate your plan!



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weather.gov/Chicago

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW

Severe Weather Safety

This is a checklist of five basic things you should know about severe weather safety. Knowing this information and utilizing these tips should improve your chances of being safe if severe weather threatens. Be sure that you, and your family or coworkers, are familiar with everything on this list.

- Three Basic Things to Include in Your Severe Weather Safety Plan**
 - **Where to Shelter**
 - **How to Reach Each Other (*communication*)**
 - **Meet-up spot if You Get Separated**
- Knowing Important Sources of Weather Information**
 - **NWS Chicago Weather Watcher Page**
 - **Watches and Warnings**
- Have Multiple Ways to Get Weather Information**
- Ensure Wireless Emergency Alerts are Enabled on Smartphone**
- “Get In, Get Down, Cover Up”**



plan



Self-Assessment: Can you check all five boxes?

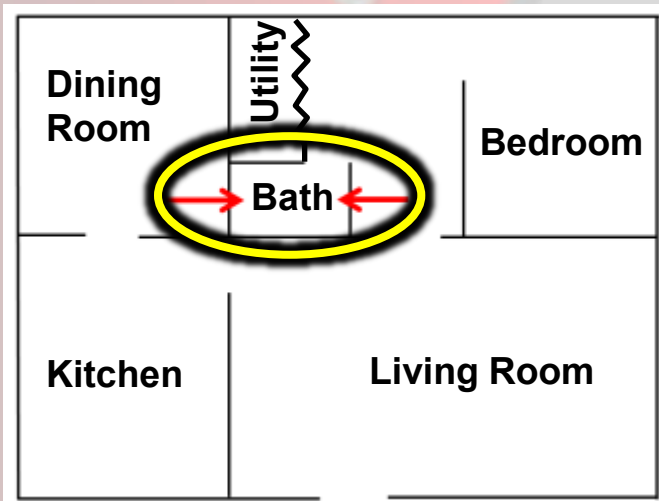


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SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY PLAN

Three basic things everyone in your home or business should know...

1. Pick A Spot



Find a safe, interior room, preferably the lowest level in the building, and let everyone know that's where they should go during severe weather

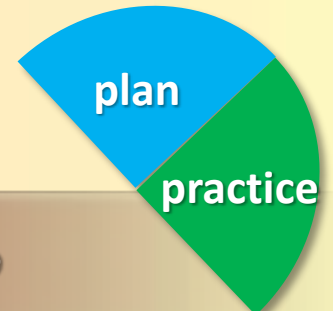
2. How To Get In Touch

Everyone should know how to reach one another afterwards. In disasters, texting is often better than calling.



3. Choose a "Meet Up Spot"

It's a good idea to have a standard meet up spot that everyone knows.



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Web: weather.gov/Chicago

monitor

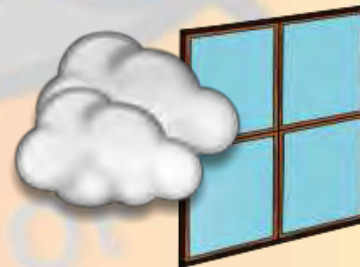
Weather Watcher

- **Designate a Weather Watcher**
 - Checks forecast and monitors conditions when threatening weather is possible
 - Ideally has the authority to enact the severe weather plan or has direct contact with decision maker
 - Knowledgeable of forecast information
 - www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher



Monitoring information

Keeping an eye on the sky



Weather Watcher Page



[Weather Story](#)



[Local Radar](#)



[Weather Map](#)

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on YouTube

LOT RSS Feed

HAZARD *Select Page*

- Graphics
- Weather Outlook
- Hazardous Weather Outlook
- Watches/Warnings
- Outlooks
- National Briefing
- Skywarn

- Next
- Aviation
- Marine
- Fire
- Enhanced Data Display (EDD)
- Great Lakes Marine Portal
- Lake Michigan Beach Forecast

CURRENT CONDITIONS

- CoCoRaHS
- Beach Conditions

PAST WEATHER

- Climate Plots
- Holiday Climate Data
- Stormdata

EDUCATION

- NWS Training Portal
- Jetstream
- Play Time for Kids

WEATHER SAFETY

[Weather Watcher Page](#)

- Winter Weather Preparedness
- Severe Weather Preparedness
- Rip Currents
- Lightning
- NOAA Weather Radio



US Dept of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
Chicago, IL
333 West University Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446
815-834-1435 8am-8pm

- Disclaimer
- Information Quality
- Help
- Glossary

- Privacy Policy
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- About Us
- Career Opportunities

Weather Watcher Page

www.weather.gov/lot/wx_watcher



NWS Chicago
Decision Support
Briefing

Current Conditions and Seven Day Forecast

City, St. or Zip Code

[Go to National DSS Page](#)

[Current Conditions](#)

[General Forecast](#)

[Thunderstorms](#)

[Hydrology/Rivers](#)

[Winter Weather](#)

Hazards Planning

- [Latest Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook for Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana](#)
- [Latest Area Forecast Discussion](#)

Latest Watches and Warnings



Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana Watches and Warnings Map



US SPC Day 1 Convective Outlook, Current Watches, and Radar

[Show/Hide WWA Definitions](#)

Latest Weather Story and Graphicast



Chicago

Light Snow Develops
Some Sun Early this AM



Rockford Woodstock Waukegan



Key Pieces of Weather Info on Weather Watcher Page

What is the weather going to do?
Do I need to be concerned?

monitor

1. Hazardous Weather Outlook

Text

WEATHER HAZARDS EXPECTED:

THUNDERSTORMS... SOME MAY BE SEVERE AND PRODUCE:

LOCALLY HEAVY RAINFALL RESULTING IN LOCALIZED FLOODING...
HAIL UP TO THE SIZE OF QUARTERS...
DAMAGING WINDS UP TO 70 MPH...
FREQUENT CLOUD TO GROUND LIGHTNING...
AND POSSIBLY AN ISOLATED TORNADO.

AREAS AFFECTED AND TIMING:

A COLD FRONT WILL SWEEP WEST TO EAST ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS
AND NORTHWEST INDIANA LATE THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH THE EVENING.

DISCUSSION:

A COLD FRONT WILL SWEEP ACROSS THE REGION THIS EVENING BRINGING
PRIMARILY A THREAT FOR STRONG AND DAMAGING WINDS ALONG WITH A
CONCERN FOR A TORNADO. AHEAD OF THE MAIN LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS...
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE LATE THIS AFTERNOON INTO THE
EARLY EVENING. THE SEVERE WEATHER THREAT SHOULD DIMINISH QUICKLY
BEHIND THE FRONT. IN ADDITION TO THE SEVERE WEATHER THREAT... SOME
AREAS HAVE ALREADY SEEN HEAVY RAIN TODAY WITH SOILS SATURATED.
ADDITIONAL HEAVY RAIN WILL QUICKLY BE CONVERTED TO RUNOFF WITH A
CONCERN FOR AT LEAST LOCALIZED FLOODING.

...DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN... FRIDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

THERE IS A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON INTO
SUNDAY NIGHT... AND AGAIN TUESDAY NIGHT THROUGH THURSDAY.

...SPOTTER INFORMATION STATEMENT...

SPOTTER ACTIVATION WILL LIKELY BE NECESSARY THROUGH TONIGHT.

Graphical



Click
EHWO Tab

2. SPC Outlooks



3. Weather Story

ALERT: Severe Weather Likely Late This Afternoon and Evening

Severe Weather Risk

Potential Hazards: Threat Level

- Tornadoes** Strong tornadoes possible
- Wind** Up to 80+ mph
- Hail** Up to golf ball size or larger
- Flash Flood** Flood-prone areas

Important Note: Significant "look" comes together for significant severe weather event. Small scale details will alter magnitude & area of greatest impacts.

When: Late afternoon & evening, significant damaging winds, tornadoes, hail all possible.

More information ways to receive warnings!
Have a plan. Be ready in advance if needed.

NWS Chicago 8/22/15 12:55 PM Central

NWS Chicago Social Media



- **Facebook, Twitter & YouTube**
- **Providing up to date information on Facebook & Twitter.**
- **Routine useful information, graphical displays and interaction.**
- **Caution: Frequency of updates posted to this feed may vary and followers should not rely on this service as their primary means of hazardous weather notification.**



Example of warnings posted to social media

- **Warnings post automatically to Twitter**

How to Make Sure You See Our Facebook Posts!

4 Steps You Can Take

1. Go to our Facebook Page Search: NWSChicago

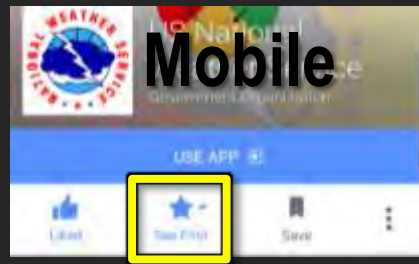
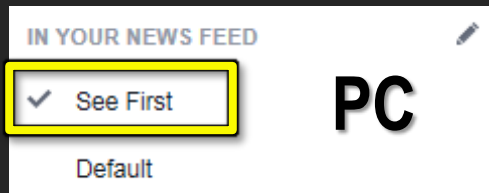
<https://www.facebook.com/NWSChicago>

**PC
&
Mobile**

- ✓ Check directly on our page for updates before and during hazardous weather
- ✓ Refresh the page often

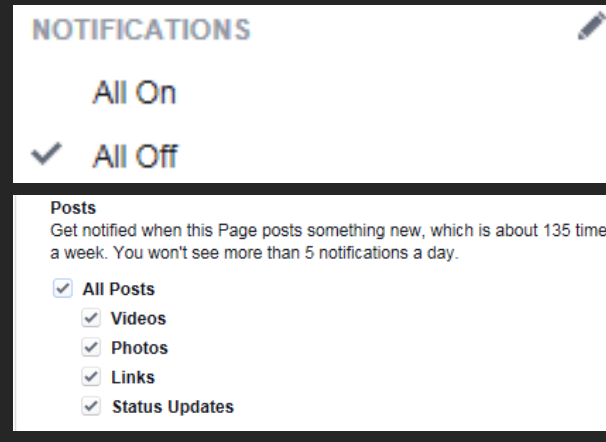
2. Find the  button

Change this setting
from *Default* to **See First**



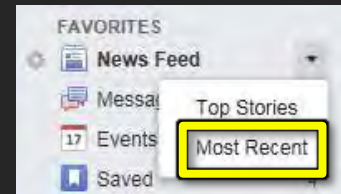
3. Find the  button

Change Notifications
from *All Off* to settings below

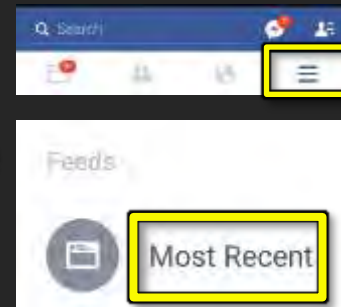


4. Set your News Feed to **Most Recent**

PC



Mobile



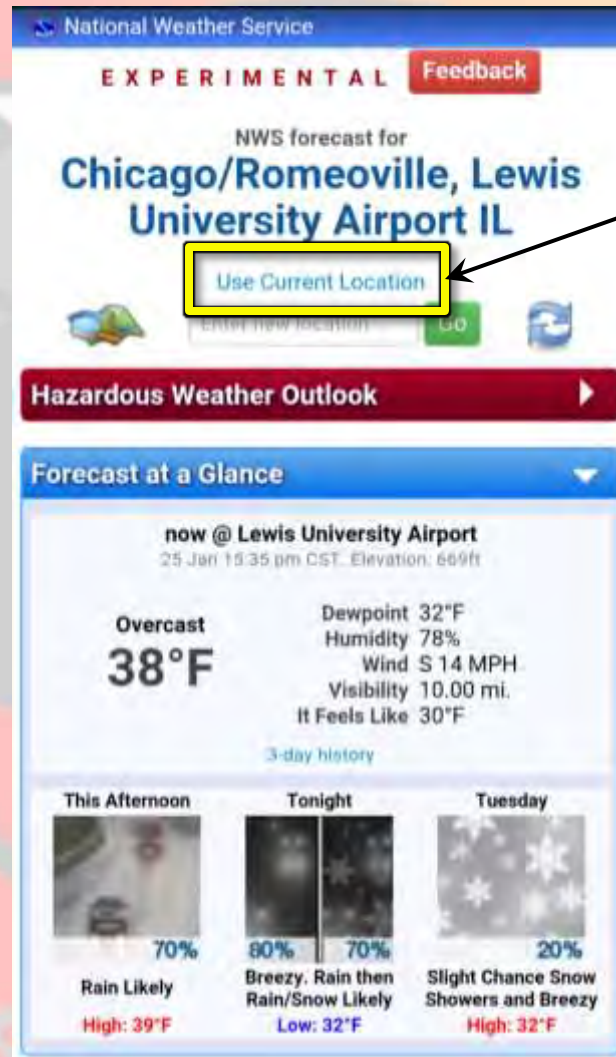
On Personal Computer



NWSChicago

monitor

Experimental Mobile Optimized Widget



***Enable location
on your device***

**The closest
the NWS has
to an app!**

**Set as icon on
your home
screen**

monitor

<http://innovation.srh.noaa.gov/NWSwidget>

Google NWS Widget

mobile.weather.gov



**Set as icon on
your home
screen**

monitor

HOW THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DEFINES THUNDERSTORM STRENGTH



GENERAL

- No hail
- Winds 45 mph or less



STRONG

- Hail up to nickels
- Winds 45 to 57 mph
- Heavy downpours



SEVERE

- Tornadoes
- Hail 1" or larger
- Winds 58 mph or greater



SIGNIFICANT SEVERE

- Strong tornadoes
- Hail 2" or larger
- Winds 75 mph or greater



monitor

The NWS will only issue warnings when a thunderstorm is severe

Understanding Severe Weather Outlooks

Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

monitor

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
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winds to 40 mph • Small hail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winds 40-60 mph • Hail up to 1" • Low tornado risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or two tornadoes • Reports of strong winds/wind damage • Hail ~1", isolated 2" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few tornadoes • Several reports of wind damage • Damaging hail, 1 - 2" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong tornadoes • Widespread wind damage • Destructive hail, 2" + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tornado outbreak • Derecho



SPC Outlooks: Forecasts for organized severe thunderstorms over the U.S.

monitor

WATCH VS. WARNING

Do YOU know the difference?

You should be...

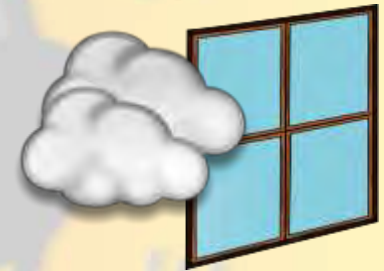
WATCH

BE ALERT. Severe storms or tornadoes **MIGHT** form and affect your area.



Monitoring information

Keep an eye on the sky



WARNING

TAKE ACTION! A severe storm or tornado is expected in your area.



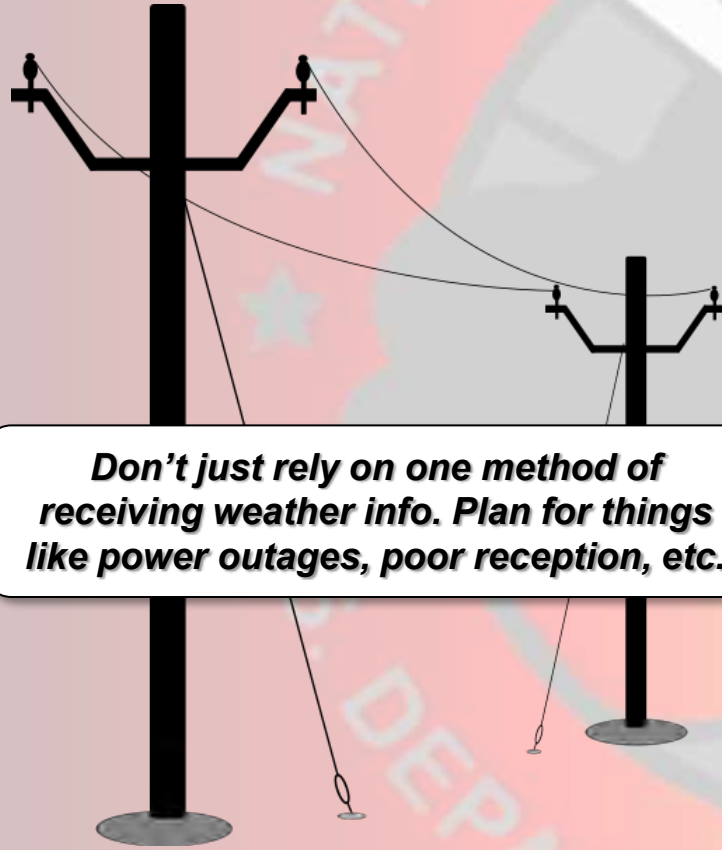
ACT IMMEDIATELY. GET IN, GET DOWN, AND COVER UP.



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monitor

HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS TO GET WEATHER INFO



Don't just rely on one method of receiving weather info. Plan for things like power outages, poor reception, etc.

Battery powered radio



Internet



Phone



Television



NOAA Weather Radio

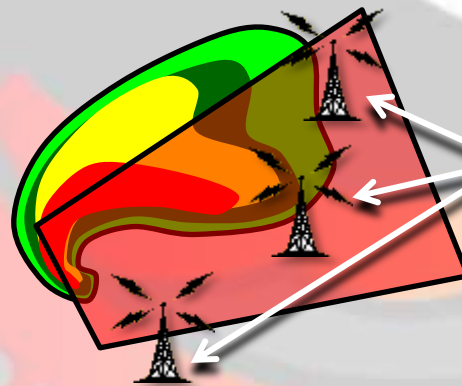


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IS YOUR PHONE WEA READY?

WEA is...
Wireless
Emergency
Alert

- *Automatic, text-like message informing you of dangerous situations*
- *No charges to receive a WEA message*
- *WEA messages have a special tone and vibration*



If you...

- ✓ Have WEA messages enabled
- ✓ And are by a cell tower covering a Tornado (Flash Flood) Warning polygon

You will automatically receive message telling you of a Tornado (Flash Flood) Warning.



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NOAA Weather Radio

“Why would you live in the bullseye of severe weather without one?”

**Receive weather information
24-hours a day**

**Radio will sound a loud
alarm to alert you when a
watch or warning has been
issued for YOUR county**

weather.gov/lot/NWR

monitor



When a **TORNADO WARNING** is Issued

“Get In, Get Down, Cover Up”

1. Get In

Get into a sturdy building and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.



2. Get Down

Get as low in the building as possible – the basement or the lowest floor.



act

3. Cover Up

Flying and falling debris are a storm's number one killer. Use pillows, blankets, helmets, etc. to cover up and protect yourself.



@NWSChicago

Web: weather.gov/Chicago

When a **TORNADO WARNING** is Issued

HIGHWAY OVERPASSES ARE ***NOT*** SAFE SHELTER!



Why you should never take shelter under a highway overpass:

- You're exposed to higher wind speeds with no protection
- Wind and flying debris become channeled underneath
- Your parked car could block traffic and put others at risk



National Weather Service – Chicago, IL
weather.gov/Chicago

Created by:
NWS Kansas City, MO

act

- **Don't try to outrun a tornado in your vehicle in an urban area. Tornadoes can move 60 mph+.**
- **As a last resort, lie flat in a ditch or low spot. A bridge does not offer protection from a tornado.**
- **Plan ahead so you do not get into this situation.**



We Have A Plan Too!

- **Neighboring offices can provide back-up**
- **Reinforced shelter**
- **Routine practice**
- **Executed plan 8/18/2015**



Photo from Danny Neal
Romeoville/Crest Hill Area ©2015 Danny Neal - IllinoisStormChasers.com





We Practice What We Advocate!



Tornado Warning included
NWS Chicago office on 8/18/15

Circulation went directly
over NWS Chicago office!



SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO/ROMEOVILLE IL
ISSUED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LINCOLN IL
729 PM CDT TUE AUG 18 2015

ILC197-190045-
/O.CON.KLOT.TO.W.0035.000000T0000Z-150819T0045Z/
WILL-
729 PM CDT TUE AUG 18 2015

...A TORNADO WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 745 PM CDT FOR
NORTHWESTERN WILL COUNTY...

AT 728 PM CDT...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A TORNADO
WAS LOCATED OVER ROMEOVILLE...MOVING NORTHEAST AT 30 MPH.

HAZARD...TORNADO.

SOURCE...RADAR INDICATED ROTATION.

IMPACT...FLYING DEBRIS WILL BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE CAUGHT WITHOUT
SHELTER. MOBILE HOMES WILL BE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. DAMAGE

- Backup procedures implemented in **SECONDS**.
- NWS Lincoln updated Tornado Warning while NWS Chicago staff took cover in tornado shelter.
- After it was safe, normal operations returned at NWS Chicago.

More Information

- **NWS Chicago Severe Preparedness Page**
www.weather.gov/chicago/severeprep
- **Make a plan**
www.ready.gov/make-a-plan
- **Basic disaster supplies kit**
www.ready.gov/kit
- **NWS Chicago Weather Watcher Page**
www.weather.gov/chicago/wx_watcher
- **WRN Ambassador**
www.weather.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html
- **Storm Ready**
www.stormready.noaa.gov



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