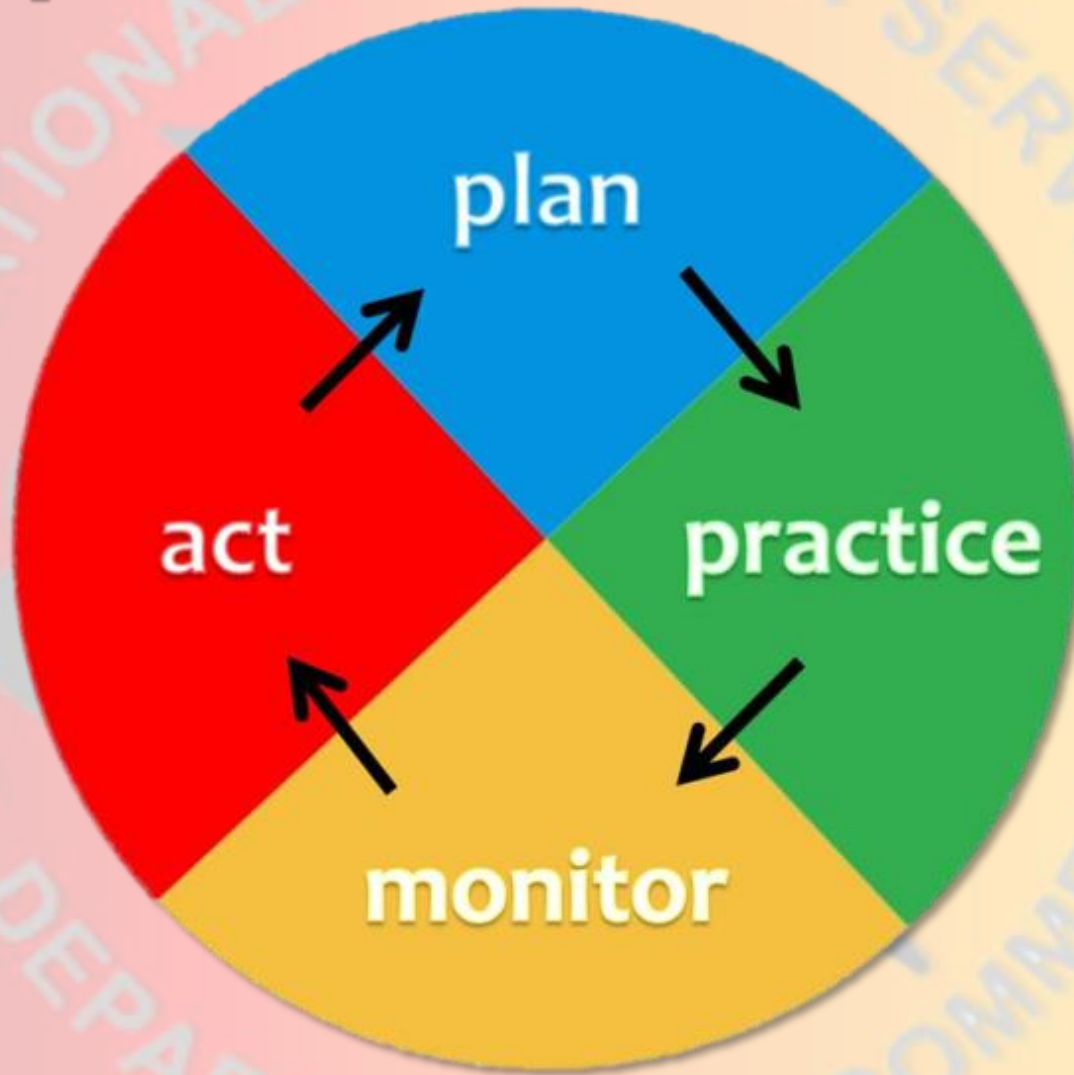


Preparedness Framework



for Severe Weather

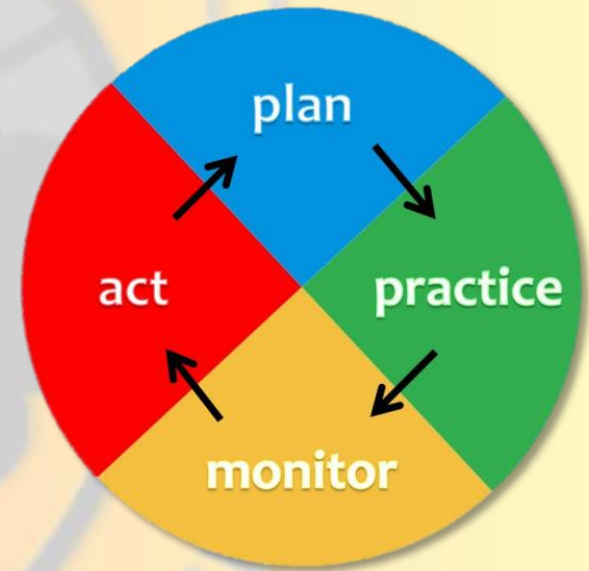
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weather.gov/Chicago

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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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?



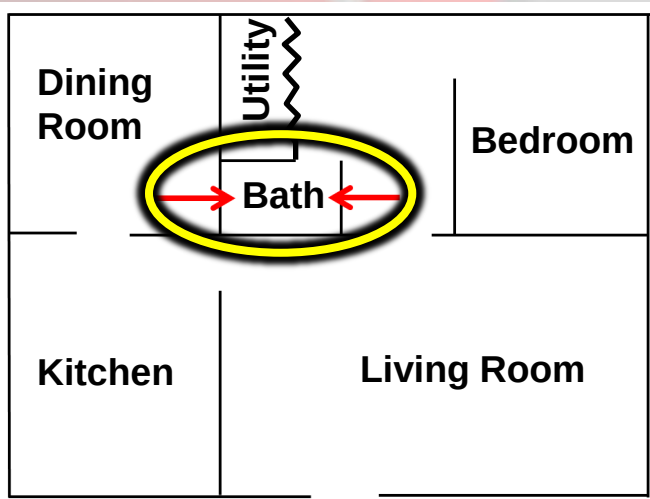
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SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY PLAN

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

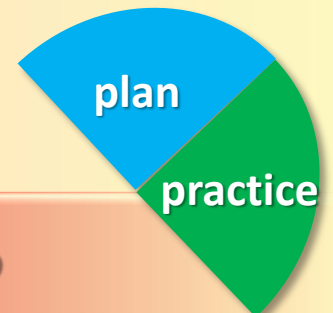
2. How To Get In Touch

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

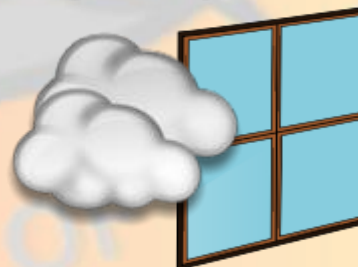
Weather Watcher

- **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



Key Pieces of Weather Info on Weather Watcher Page

monitor

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

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.

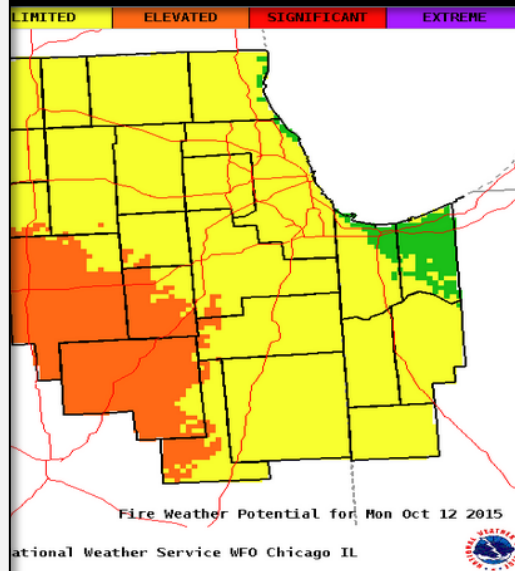
...DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...FRIDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

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

...SPOTTER INFORMATION STATEMENT...

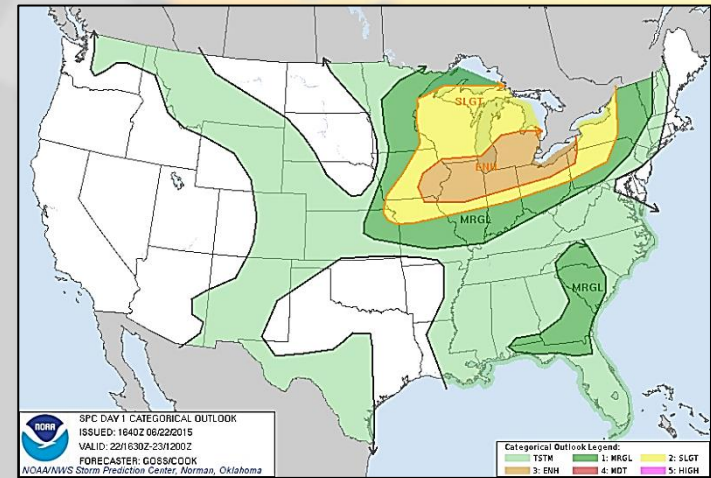
SPOTTER ACTIVATION WILL LIKELY BE NECESSARY THROUGH TONIGHT.

Graphical

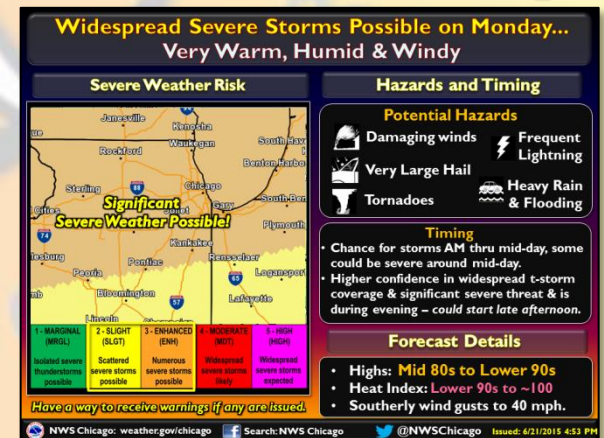


Click
EHWO Tab

2. SPC Outlooks

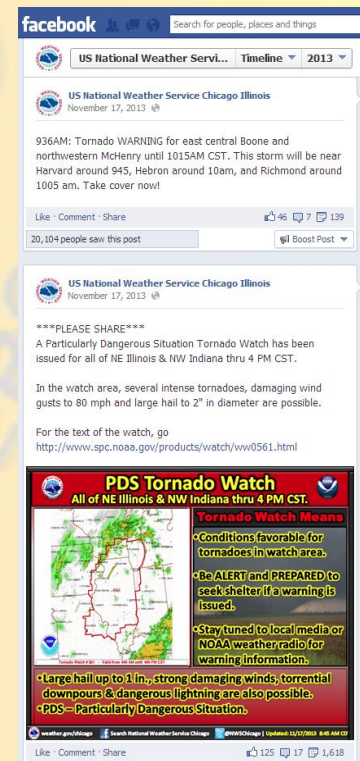


3. Weather Story



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.**



monitor

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**

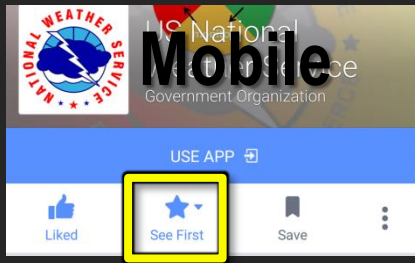
- ✓ Check directly on our page for updates before and during hazardous weather
- ✓ Refresh the page often

2. Find the Liked button

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



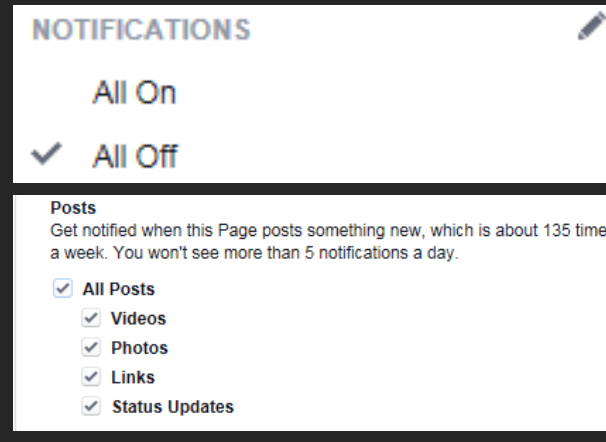
PC



Mobile

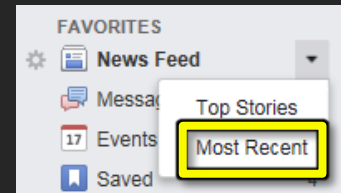
3. Find the Liked button

Change Notifications
from *All Off* to settings below

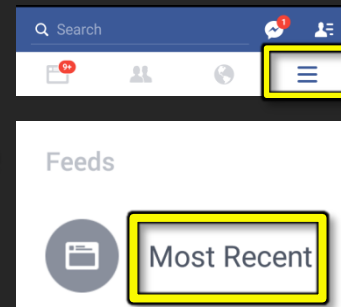


4. Set your News Feed to **Most Recent**

PC



Mobile



On Personal Computer



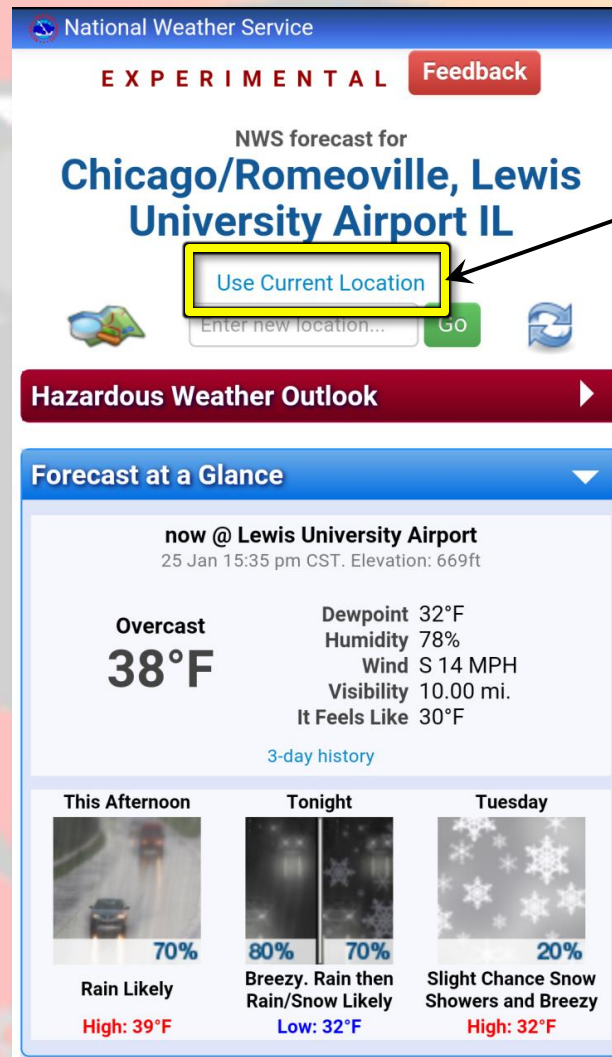
NWSChicago

monitor

Experimental Mobile Optimized Widget

The closest
the NWS has
to an app!

monitor

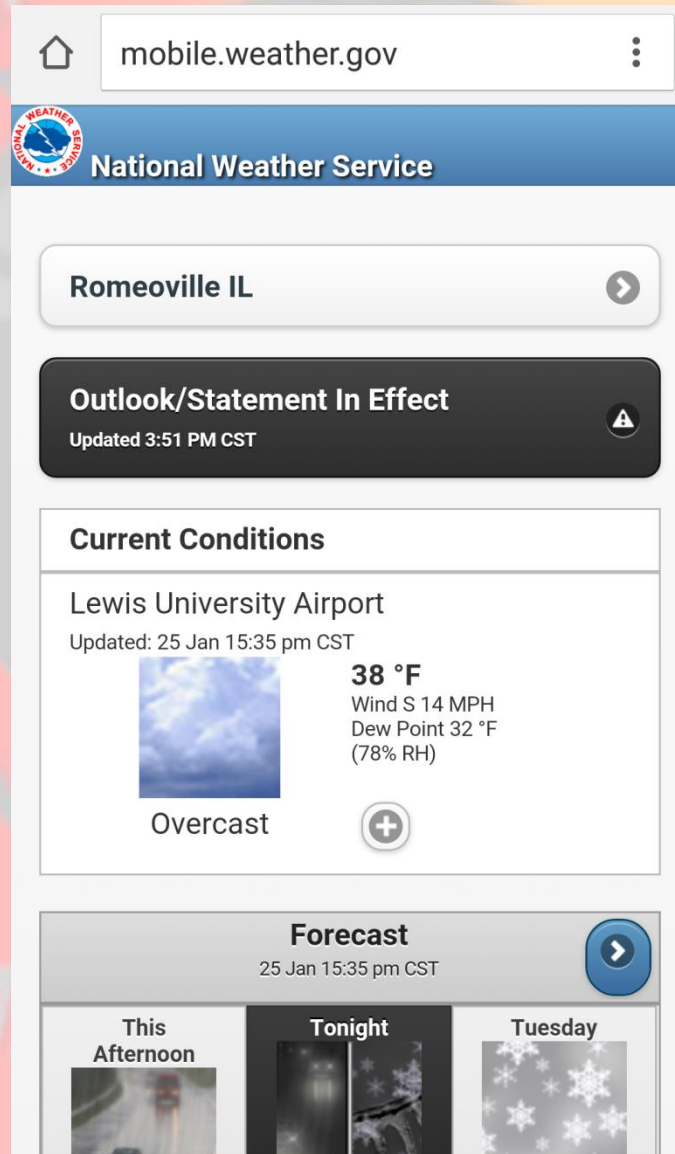


*Enable location
on your device*

Set as icon on
your home
screen

<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
					
• Winds to 40 mph • Small hail	• Winds 40-60 mph • Hail up to 1" • Low tornado risk	• One or two tornadoes • Reports of strong winds/wind damage • Hail ~1", isolated 2"	• A few tornadoes • Several reports of wind damage • Damaging hail, 1 - 2"	• Strong tornadoes • Widespread wind damage • Destructive hail, 2" +	• Tornado outbreak • Derecho

Low Impact

Dangerous

Deadly



Weather-Ready Nation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service
weather.gov/tornado

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

monitor

WATCH VS. WARNING

Do YOU know the difference?

You should be...

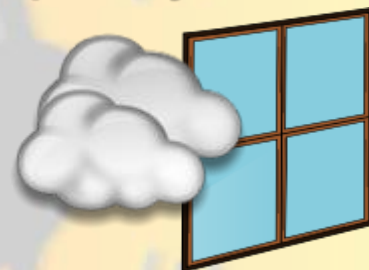
WATCH

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



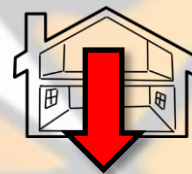
Monitoring information

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.**

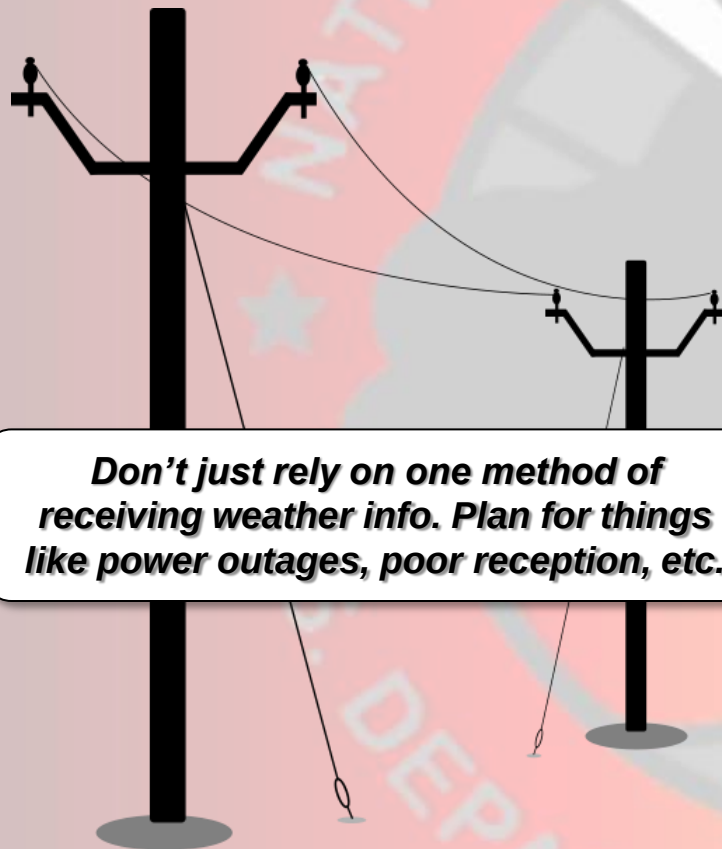


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Web: weather.gov/Chicago

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**



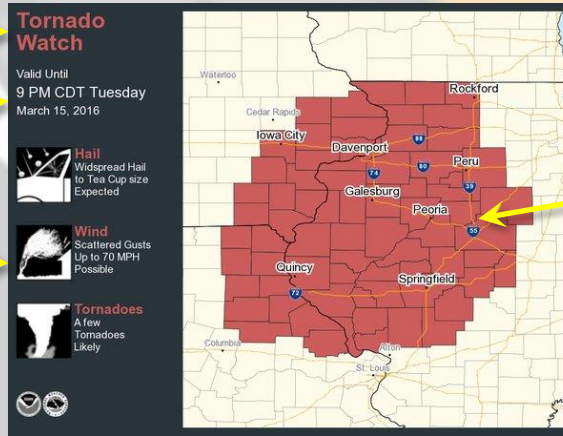
@NWSChicago Web: weather.gov/Chicago

Convective Watches and Warnings on Twitter

New Look for 2016

What Watches Look Like

Watch Type
Watch Valid Time and Date
Potential Hazards in Watch Area

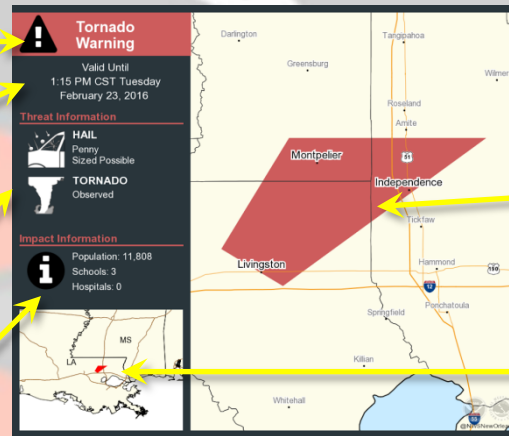


Counties and Cities in Watch

monitor

What Warnings Will Look Like

Warning Type
Warning Valid Time and Date
Expected Hazards in Warning Area
Impact Information



Area and Cities in Warning

Overview Map

Watches & Warnings Will Post Automatically to



@NWSChicago

IS YOUR PHONE WEA READY?

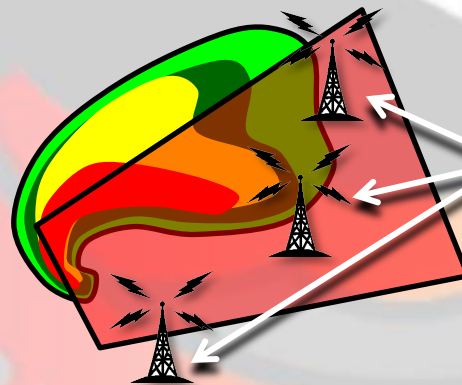
WEA is...
Wireless
Emergency
Alert

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



Check to see
if your phone is
WEA-Capable

Go to...
www.ctia.org/wea



If you...

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

You will automatically receive message telling you of a Tornado Warning.



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Web: weather.gov/Chicago

monitor

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

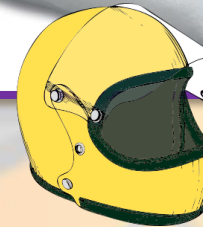
Get as low in the building as possible – the basement or the lowest floor.



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



We Have A Plan Too!

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





We Practice What We Advocate!



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

**Circulation went directly
over NWS Chicago office!**



*Photo from Danny Neal
Romeoville/Crest Hill Area*

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



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