

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Tue April 22 2025

...Severe Weather Awareness Week Continues...

Today we review severe thunderstorms.

Severe thunderstorms are defined as thunderstorms with wind speeds of 58 mph or greater and or hail of one inch in diameter or larger. Severe thunderstorms occur most frequently during the summer and during the afternoon, but occur in all seasons and at all times of the day.

Severe thunderstorm winds uproot and snap trees, take down power, cable and internet lines and can cause structural damage to buildings. Hail can damage roofs and siding and shatter glass. You should prepare for severe thunderstorms. Develop a severe weather safety plan. Identify safe shelters where you can go should a severe thunderstorm threaten. Keep tuned to your favorite media outlet for the latest National Weather Service statements concerning severe thunderstorms. The latest reports of severe weather and flash floods can be found at:
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/reports/>

Although the National Weather Service issues warnings for only those thunderstorms expected to meet wind and hail warning criteria, all thunderstorms are dangerous. By definition, thunderstorms contain lightning. If you can hear thunder, you can be struck by lightning. Once you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately in a safe structure. Most lightning fatalities occur when people are caught outdoors. If thunder roars, go indoors.

Thunderstorms require moisture, lift and unstable air to develop. Moisture is necessary for the clouds and rain. Lift is usually supplied by warm or cold fronts, sea or lake breezes, mountains or the sun's heat. Lift supplied to moist air in an unstable environment results in the development of thunderstorms.

Thunderstorms progress through three stages: developing, mature and dissipating. It is in the mature stage that thunderstorms are most dangerous, capable of producing severe weather.

The National Weather Service issues severe thunderstorm watches and warnings to alert you to a severe thunderstorm threat. A severe thunderstorm watch means that severe thunderstorms are possible. Continue with your daily routine, but be ready to take quick action should a severe thunderstorm warning be issued. A severe thunderstorm warning means that severe thunderstorms are imminent or occurring. Seek shelter immediately.

NWS severe thunderstorm warnings are issued for small geographic areas taking into account thunderstorm size and motion. If you receive a severe thunderstorm warning, you are likely close to a storm or storms. NWS severe thunderstorm warnings have a duration of 1 hour or less.

Tomorrow we take a look at severe weather safety and preparedness.

For more information on Severe Weather Awareness Week, go to our web site www.weather.gov/albany or visit us on social media @NWSAlbany. Help us make the United States a weather ready nation by sharing this information with everyone you know.

NWS Albany