

# New York and Pennsylvania Severe Weather Awareness Week April 24<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Severe Weather Terms and Definitions

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# Introduction to Severe Weather Awareness Week 2016

- Does NY and PA get severe weather?
- What is a severe thunderstorm?
- What is the difference between a tornado and a funnel cloud?
- What is flooding?
- How can I get weather information?



# Why Do We Need To Plan For Severe Weather?

NY and PA receives all forms of severe weather:

- *Tornadoes*
- *Severe Thunderstorms*
- *Flash Floods*
- *River Floods*

Steuben County July 22, 2003



July 21, 2003 Delhi, NY



# Why Do We Need To Plan For Severe Weather in New York and Pennsylvania?

- Several large severe weather outbreaks have affected New York and Pennsylvania.
  - New York and Pennsylvania has received significant flooding throughout history, many of which have been statewide.
  - River flooding is of particular concern, with many floods devastating both states.
  - More weather-related fatalities are caused by floods than by any other natural disaster.
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# Severe Thunderstorms

A storm which produces hail 1 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts 58 mph or stronger.



# Tornadoes vs. Funnel Clouds



## Tornado:

A violently rotating column of air pendant from a thunderstorm and in contact with the ground.



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## Funnel Cloud:

A rotating, funnel-shaped (typically) cloud extending from a thunderstorm base. A funnel cloud is attached to the cloud base and does not reach the ground. It exhibits rapid rotation and is most often smooth in appearance.



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# Flooding

- Flash Flood - A rapid rise in stream, creek and small tributary river levels, usually within 6 hours of a heavy rain event, or other factor such as a dam break or ice jam.
- River Flood - A flood that takes longer to develop (more than 6 hours) and often days or even weeks in some instances. Occurs on the larger rivers and lakes of our area.

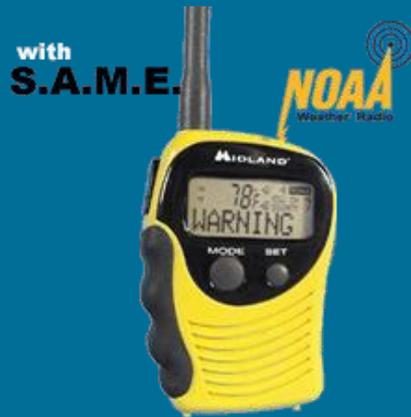


# Flash Flooding



# NOAA Weather Radio

- Special radio with an audio alarm that goes off whenever the National Weather Service issues a warning for your area.
- Could be a life saver someday!
- Especially at night when you are not apt to be watching TV or listening to radio.
- Weather radios are affordable and can be bought at many locations.



# WATCH vs. WARNING

**CAUTION**

**Watch the Sky**

**DANGER**

**Take Cover Now**

## Watch- “Stand-by”

Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

## Warning- “Activated”

The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding. Issued by NWS Binghamton for central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.