



## IOWA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the National Weather Service have designated March 27 through March 31 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service in Des Moines will cover severe weather topics. Today's topic is severe thunderstorms.

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter (size of a quarter) and/or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people some years than tornadoes. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding. High winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages. Remember these tips:

- Watch for signs of a thunderstorm, like darkening skies or lightning flashes.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! Don't wait for rain.
- Avoid using corded electrical equipment during a thunderstorm.
- Keep away from windows during a thunderstorm.

For additional information go to: [Thunderstorm Safety](#)

Knowing when severe weather is possible will give you time to prepare! You can always find current conditions, forecasts and hazardous weather information at [weather.gov](#)

If you're not on your computer, you can access the same information via your mobile device at [mobile.weather.gov](#)

For additional safety information visit:  
[www.weather.gov/om/severeweatherready.gov](#)  
[weather.gov/desmoines](#)



*Building a Weather-Ready Nation*