

Location, Location, Location

Another important key in being prepared for any kind of weather is knowing what county you are located in, and what cities or geographical landmarks you are near. Most weather warnings and information are referenced by counties, cities, interstates and major highways, lakes and rivers, and state parks and recreation areas.

-Keep a map of the areas where you are staying, traveling through, or boating so you will always know if you need to take action for approaching weather.

-Always make preparations **BEFORE** bad weather strikes by knowing your surroundings, where safe shelter is located and planning escape routes. Always let someone know where you will be during your boating excursions.



Take action during dangerous weather situations!

When caught boating during a thunderstorm...

- Get out of boats and away from water. Move to a sturdy building or car.
- DO NOT take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles. If no shelter is available, find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.
- If you can not get to shore before the thunderstorm reaches your area, put on your personal flotation device and prepare for wind and rough waters. Stay below deck (if possible), and keep away from metal objects that are not grounded to the boat's protection system.

If a storm appears threatening, or a warning is issued...

- Abandon campers, mobile homes, or any type of vehicle. They offer little protection against tornadoes and severe thunderstorm winds.
- Move to a pre-designated shelter on the lowest floor, and stay away from windows.
- If you are caught outside during a tornado, lie flat in a ditch, and protect your head and as much of your body as possible.

*** The keys to staying safe while boating, and during all outdoor activities, are checking the forecast before going out, taking a NOAA Weather Radio with you, and remaining alert for changing weather conditions. Awareness and common sense are your best protection. ***

Other sources of weather information...

You can visit the Paducah National Weather Service website at <http://www.weather.gov/pah>

National Weather Service
8250 Kentucky Highway 3520
West Paducah, KY 42086

Telephone (270)744-6440 Fax (270)744-3828



National Weather Service Paducah, Kentucky



WEATHER SAFETY GUIDE FOR BOATERS



**A National Weather Service
reference guide to staying
aware, informed, and safe in
any weather conditions**

Listed below are many products issued by the National Weather Service during more serious weather situations. Understanding what each product means can help you take the appropriate action necessary to keep you and your family safe in any weather conditions.



National Weather Service Product Definitions



Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch -

Conditions are favorable for development of severe thunderstorms and/or tornadoes in and around the watch area. Remain alert to changing weather conditions.

Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning -

A thunderstorm capable of producing 1 inch hail or larger and/or winds gusting to at least 58 mph, or a tornado, has been indicated by radar or reported by a trained weather spotter or law enforcement official. Take immediate action to save life and property, and take cover!



Flood/Flash Flood Watch - Current and/or developing conditions indicate there is a threat of flooding.

Flood Warning - Flooding is expected in normally dry areas due to increased water levels in an established watercourse such as a river, stream or drainage ditch.

Flash Flood Warning - Excessive rain falling in a short period of time, generally in less than 6 hours, resulting in fast and serious flooding of normally dry areas.

Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory - High water or flooding is expected in small streams, streets and low-lying areas, such as railroad underpasses and urban storm drains.



Lightning - Warnings are NOT issued for lightning, because lightning always occurs with thunderstorms, and is always deadly. Take cover whenever you see lightning.



High Wind Warning - Sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater for an hour or longer or wind gusts of at least 58 mph for any duration.

Wind Advisory - Sustained wind speeds of 30 mph or greater lasting an hour or longer or winds gusts to 45 mph or greater for any duration.



Heat Advisory - Heat Index* of at least 105 degrees is expected.

Excessive Heat Warning - Heat Index* of at least 110 degrees is expected.

*Heat Index is a measure of how hot the body feels when the effects of humidity are combined with the air temperature. High humidity levels reduce the amount of sweat that is able to evaporate, thus reducing the ability for the body to cool itself. Drink plenty of water, wear light weight, light colored clothing, and reduce physical activity when the above products are issued, or any time hot and humid conditions occur.



Other Weather Related Hazards

Sunburn - Injury from the sun can begin in as little as 30 minutes, and sunburn can occur even on cloudy days. Reflection from water increases the effects of

the sun. Beyond red and irritated skin, severe sunburns can cause blisters, swelling, fever, chills, weakness, and on rare occasions a person can even go into shock. Severe sunburns put you at greater risk for skin cancer later in life and cause premature aging of the skin.

Protect yourself from the sun by using sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (depending on skin type), applying it 30 minutes prior to sun exposure, and reapplying as directed. Wear long sleeved clothing, and wear hats with wide brims to protect your face and ears, or use an umbrella. Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun during the hours of 10am to 3pm.

Eye Damage Due to the Sun's Ultraviolet Rays - Many people have to seek medical attention each year due to burned corneas, especially during the summer months. In addition, too much exposure to ultraviolet rays can accelerate the formation of cataracts later in life.

Find sunglasses which say they provide 100% protection from both UVA and UVB rays. Polarized sunglasses can greatly reduce glare from the water, making you more comfortable and improving your ability to see and avoid people and objects in the water. Also, do not forget about providing eye protection for children!



NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio, known as the voice of the National Weather Service, broadcasts weather information directly from the National Weather Service 24 hours a day. Routine weather information, such as hourly weather conditions, current forecasts, and river and lake levels, along with all of the previously mentioned products, can be heard any time of the day or night. Weather radios are both electric and battery powered, making them perfect to take on trips, to the campground, or out on a lake. Many models have an alarm feature, which will alert you any time a watch or warning has been issued for your area, and the more advanced radios can be programmed to alarm only for specific counties. NOAA Weather Radio is your best and fastest source of weather information no matter where you are.

The NOAA Weather Radio Network covers all 50 states. NOAA Weather Radio is an "all hazards" radio network, making it the most comprehensive single source for weather and emergency information available to the public. NOAA Weather Radios are available at various electronics stores, and cost \$25 and up, depending on features.

NOAA Weather Radio requires a special receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts can be found throughout the United States on the following seven public service band frequencies: 162.400 162.425 162.450 162.475 162.500 162.525 162.550

From the National Weather Service in Paducah, weather information is currently broadcast from eleven transmitters across Western Kentucky, Southeast Missouri, Southern Illinois, and Southwest Indiana.

Doniphan, MO	WWG-48 162.450 MHz	Bloomfield, MO	WXL-47 162.400 MHz
Piedmont, MO	KX4-66 162.425 MHz	Cape Girardeau, MO	KX4-93 162.550 MHz
Evansville, IN	KIG-76 162.550 MHz	Madisonville, KY	WXJ-91 162.525 MHz
Mayfield, KY	KIH-46 162.475 MHz	Hopkinsville, KY	KX4-26 162.450 MHz
Whitesville, KY	KZZ-61 162.475 MHz	Marion, IL	WXM-49 162.425 MHz
McLeansboro, IL	KX4-52 162.400 MHz		

It is important to know which transmitter provides alerts for your county. For this and other additional information, you can visit our website at www.weather.gov/pah, look under "Weather Safety", then click on "Weather Radio", or visit www.weather.gov/nwr. If you do not have internet access, write or call us via the address or telephone number on the back of this brochure.