

HAIL

Remember severe thunderstorms are capable of producing hail 3/4 inch in diameter or greater. 3/4 inch diameter hail is about the size of a penny or dime.

Strong rising currents of air within a storm, called updrafts, carry water droplets to a height where freezing occurs. Ice particles grow in size, eventually becoming too heavy to be supported by the updraft, and fall to the ground.

Hail causes more than \$1 billion in damage to crops and property every year!

Large hailstones fall at speeds faster than 100 miles per hour—so you don't want to be caught outside during a severe thunderstorm when large hail is possible. Take shelter inside a building or in a vehicle.



SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING THUNDERSTORM:

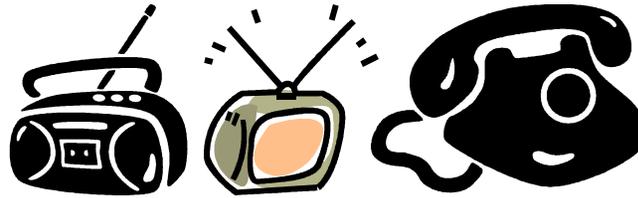
Darkening skies

Increasing wind

Flashes of lightning

Sound of thunder

Be Prepared!



Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio or T.V. for the latest forecasts from the National Weather Service.

GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED...24 HOURS A DAY...GET A NOAA WEATHER RADIO!



Check out the National Weather Service Paducah website for the latest information at weather.gov/paducah

Call for the latest forecast from the National Weather Service's Weather Information Now number:

Paducah, KY: 270-744-6331

Evansville, IN: 812-425-5549

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

8250 Kentucky Highway 3520

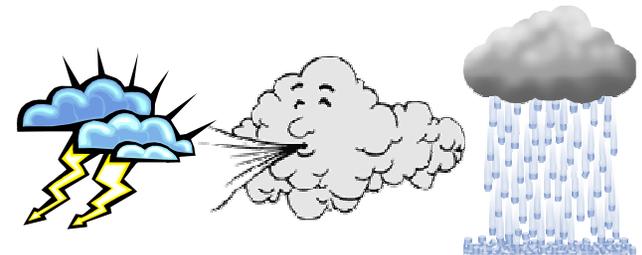
West Paducah, KY 42086

270-744-6440

Severe Weather Safety Guide

Severe

Thunderstorms

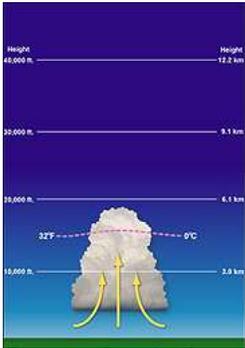


A reference guide from your
National Weather Service
Paducah, Kentucky

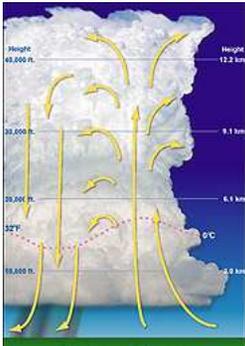


It is estimated there are as many as 40,000 thunderstorm occurrences each day world-wide. This translates into an astounding 14.6 million occurrences annually! The United States certainly experiences its share of thunderstorm occurrences.

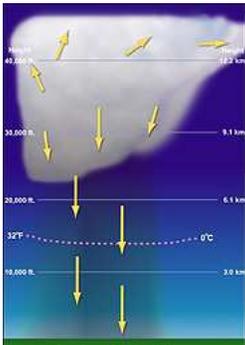
Thunderstorm Life Cycle:



Developing Stage: Towering clouds grow high into the atmosphere which indicates rising air. Usually little if any rain is occurring during this stage, although some lightning is possible. When you see cumulus clouds grow upwards like this, you should be aware that thunderstorms could develop if conditions are right.



Mature Stage: At this stage, the towering cumulus cloud flattens out on top forming an anvil. Thunderstorms may have a black or dark green appearance. At this stage, heavy rain, gusty winds, and lightning are likely. If the storm is strong enough, hail and tornadoes are possible. Most thunderstorms last 30 minutes, but some storms can last much longer.



Dissipating Stage: At this stage, the rain usually slows down as the storm weakens. The thunderstorm can still produce a burst of strong winds and lightning remains a danger.

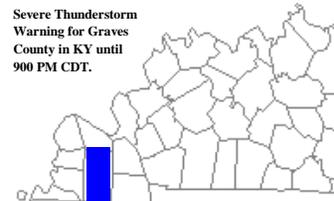
ONE OF THE MANY JOBS OF NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DANGEROUS WEATHER APPROACHING YOUR AREA.

Sometimes, a thunderstorm can become severe. NOAA's National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm to be severe if it produces hail at least 3/4 inch in diameter or greater and/or strong winds 58 mph or greater, or a tornado.

When the National Weather Service issues a **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH**: This means severe thunderstorms are possible in your area. Watch the sky and listen to your radio or T.V. for updates.



When the National Weather Service issues a **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING**: This means a severe thunderstorm has been detected on the Doppler Radar or someone has reported a severe thunderstorm. Take immediate action—Take cover.



WHAT TO DO IF A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING IS ISSUED FOR YOUR COUNTY:



The **BEST** place to be during any thunderstorm, including severe thunderstorms, is inside a sturdy building, such as your home.



Stay away from windows! Windows can break due to large hail or due to objects blown into them from the wind.

Remember that severe thunderstorms produce winds in excess of 58 mph...sometimes as high as 100 mph! Winds that strong can topple trees, power lines, power poles, and even destroy small buildings such as sheds, carports, and barns. Therefore, it is best to stay on the lowest floor of your home to be safe.

