

New Jersey and Pennsylvania Severe Weather Awareness Week April 24th to April 30th, 2016

Severe Weather Terms and Definitions

By: Kat Hawley

NOAA's National Weather Service

Binghamton, NY



Introduction to Severe Weather Awareness Week 2016

- Does NJ 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?

NJ 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 Jersey and Pennsylvania?

- Several large severe weather outbreaks have affected New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
 - New Jersey 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.
- 

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.



© Bruce Haynie 2005



Copyright Jason Parkin

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.



Copyright Gene Moore

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.



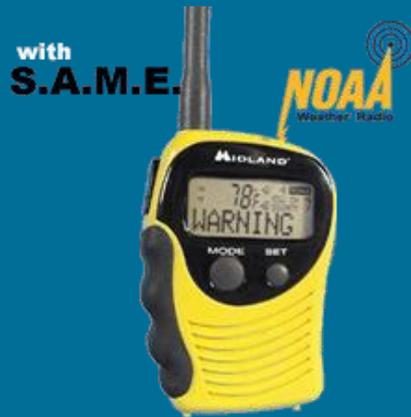
Courtesy of Bill Walsh

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 Jersey and northeast Pennsylvania.