



The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Springfield, Missouri

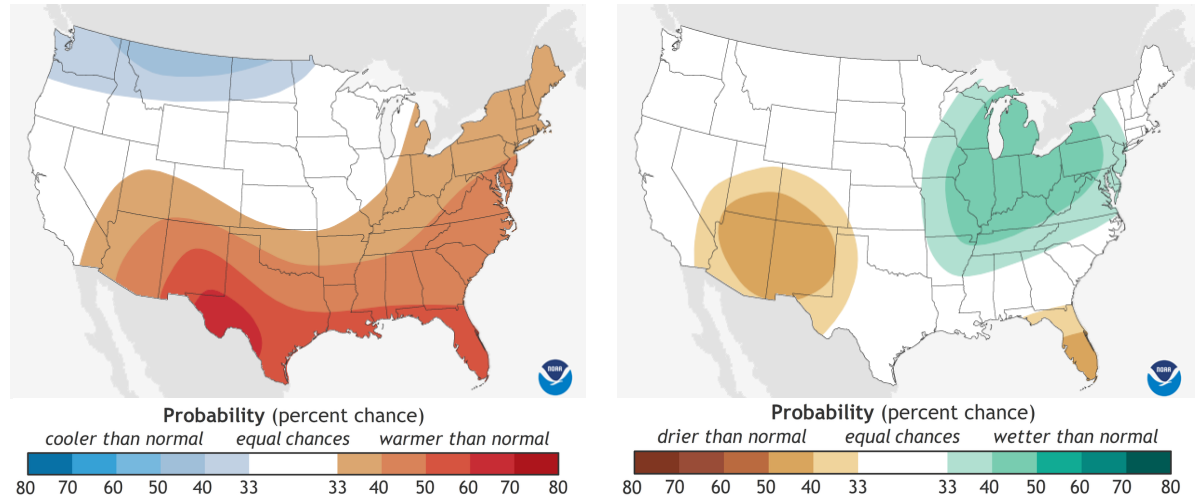


Preparing for Spring 2023

Inside this Issue:

Preparing for Spring	1
Severe Weather Outlooks	2
Spring Preparedness	3
Sheltering in Tornadoes	4
Flooding in the Ozarks	5
Outdoor Weather Safety	6
Reporting and Observations	7
Building a Weather-Ready Nation	8

Spring Outlook



The Spring outlook slightly favors above normal precipitation and near normal to above normal temperatures. For more information visit: [Climate Prediction Outlook](#).

Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 6-10, 2023

Join the NWS and [Missouri State Emergency Management Agency](#) and [Kansas Division of Emergency Management](#) as we prepared for severe weather season.

Monday Receiving Weather Information 	Tuesday Tornado Safety Statewide Tornado Drill 	Wednesday Lightning Safety 	Thursday Hail & Wind Safety 	Friday Flood Safety
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On **Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 10:00 AM** State Emergency Management and the NWS will conduct a Statewide Tornado Drill. Every school, citizen, and business is encouraged to participate in the drill. Residents should treat the drill as if it were an actual Tornado Warning. The purpose of the drill is to test everyone's readiness for life-threatening severe weather events such as tornadoes, flash floods, and damaging winds. Local officials are encouraged to sound warning sirens to initiate the drill. The National Weather Service **will issue a Routine Weekly Test (RWT) to NOAA Weather Radios to initiate the drill.** In Missouri, this is a change from past years in which a true Tornado Warning was issued. Additional info on our [Severe Weather Preparedness Week webpage](#).

Ozark Ambassador Team

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Meteorologist in Charge

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Science and Operations
Officer

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Weather-Ready Nation
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Winter Weather Websites

[DSS Packet](#)

[Weather Story](#)

[Weather Prediction Center](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

Severe Weather Outlooks

Severe Weather Risk Categories

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Outlook Categories

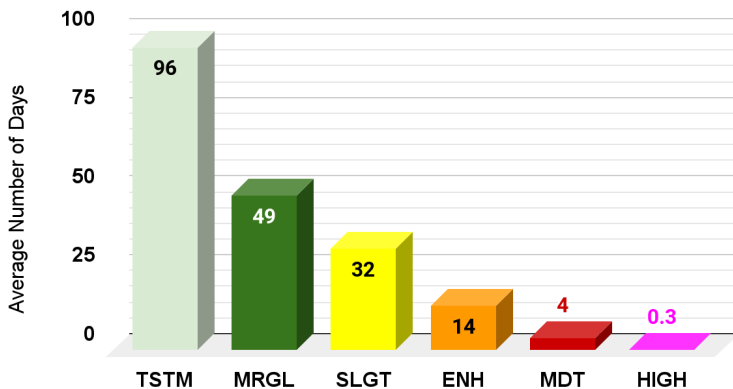


LEVEL	CATEGORY	DETAILS	SUMMARY	How many severe storms are possible?	How bad could the worst storms be?	DEFINITIONS
	General Thunderstorm	Although severe weather is not expected, <i>all</i> thunderstorms can produce deadly lightning, gusty winds, and small hail.	No severe thunderstorms expected	None to Numerous	Similar to storms your area experiences many times per year	Severe Storm Any storm that contains at least one of the following:
1	Marginal (MRGL)	Some storms could be capable of damaging winds and severe hail. Localized tornado threat could develop.	Isolated severe storms possible	None to Numerous	Similar to storms your area may experience several times per year	Wind gusts of at least 58 mph
2	Slight (SLGT)	Increased confidence that some storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornado potential. <i>A few severe storms could be significant</i>	Isolated to scattered severe storms expected	None to Numerous	Similar to storms your area may experience a few times per year	Hail at least one inch in diameter
3	Enhanced (ENH)	High confidence that several storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornadoes. <i>Several severe storms could be significant</i>	Scattered to numerous severe storms expected	None to Numerous	Similar to intense storms your area may only experience once or twice per year	Tornado
4	Moderate (MDT)	High confidence that many storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornadoes. <i>Several severe storms likely to be significant</i>	Scattered to numerous severe storms expected	None to Numerous	Similar to intense storms your area may only experience once per year or less	Significant Severe Any of the following hazards:
5	High (HIGH)	High confidence that an outbreak of storms will contain tornadoes, damaging winds, and/or severe hail. <i>Tornado outbreak and/or widespread damaging winds</i>	Numerous severe storms expected	None to Numerous	Very intense storms your area may only experience once or twice in a lifetime	Wind gusts of at least 75 mph Hail at least two inches in diameter Tornado of at least EF-2 rating

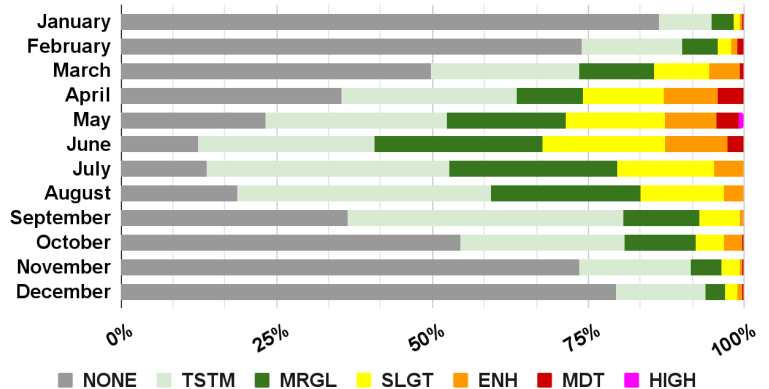
spc.noaa.gov | weather.gov

Severe Weather Outlook Climatology

Average Number of Outlook Days per Year



Monthly SPC Outlook Days



NWS Springfield office developed a Severe Weather climatology using Storm Prediction Center (SPC) outlooks, warnings, and storm reports. This climatology was developed to aid in office staffing during events and provide contextual situational awareness.




Spring Preparedness

Preparedness Tips

STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out

If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.

-  Make sure that you have emergency supplies
-  Know your safe places
-  Have a family communication plan




The day before

The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.

-  Adjust plans
-  Make sure your phone can receive WEAs
-  Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible

The day of

Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!

-  Remind your family of the communication plan
-  Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are
-  When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!

Take charge of DISASTERS



Download the FEMA App Today!

Get Access to:

- Weather Alerts
- Disaster Resources
- Preparedness Tips



Plan. Protect. Recover.



Have multiple ways to get warnings weather.gov



Sheltering in Tornadoes

Finding Shelter During a Tornado

Tornado Sheltering Guidelines

Seek the best available refuge area **immediately** when a Tornado Warning is issued. Your chance of surviving a tornado is excellent if you follow these guidelines.

WORST OPTIONS

- Mobile homes
- Vehicles
- Underneath a highway overpass

BAD OPTIONS

- Large open rooms like gymnasiums
- Manufactured housing

GOOD OPTIONS

- Interior room of a well-constructed home or building
- Basement

BEST OPTIONS

- Above or below ground Tornado Storm Shelter (NNSA/ICC 500 compliant)*
- Specifically-designed FEMA Safe Room*

Find another option



Stay in place until all clear

PHOTO: U.S. Air Force - Tech. Sgt. Bradley C. Church

*Recommended by FEMA



TORNADOES AND ROAD SAFETY

WHAT TO DO

Get off the road. The best option is to drive to a designated shelter, basement or safe room.

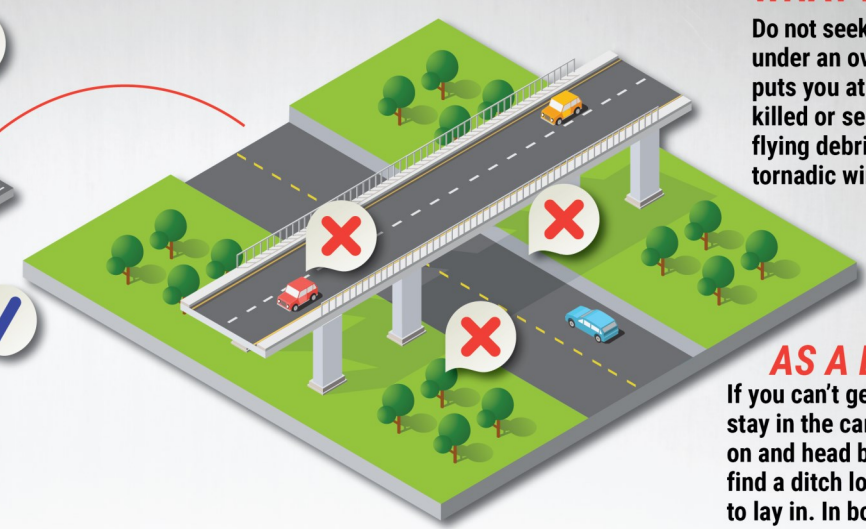


The next best option is a small, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor of a sturdy building.



WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not seek refuge outside, or under an overpass or tree. This puts you at greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris or powerful tornadic winds.



AS A LAST RESORT

If you can't get to shelter, either stay in the car with your seat belt on and head below the windows, or find a ditch lower than the roadway to lay in. In both cases, cover your head with your hands.



Flooding in the Ozarks

Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	MODERATE (MDT)	HIGH (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible	Scattered flash floods possible	Numerous flash floods likely	Widespread flash floods expected
	Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.
www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov @NWSWPC				

3 fast FLOOD FACTS

- Heavy rain can bring dangerous flash flooding.
- 6 inches of moving water can knock a person down.
- 2 feet of moving water can sweep a vehicle away.



Whether you're walking or driving, stay clear of floodwater.
Share these facts with friends so they're safe too.



Flash flooding can escalate quickly.

Heavy rain can lead to sudden flash floods, whether you're on the road or at a campground. Will you be ready?

- Set up a way to get weather warnings on your phone
- When alerted to a flash flood, get to higher ground immediately
- Never enter flood waters in a vehicle or on foot



HELPING OTHERS: FLOODING

- Connect with your neighbors about local flood risks and planning needs
- If flooding is expected, help others elevate and protect their belongings
- After storms, check on neighbors and keep others out of floodwater



Outdoor Weather Safety

Weather-Ready Outdoors

Weather-Ready for Boating?



Strong Winds

Dangerous wind can arrive well before the rain. Reduce speed and head to shore if alerted to high wind. Always wear a life jacket when on a boat.



Lightning

If you hear thunder or see lightning, it's time to stay in the cabin or head to shore.



Fog

If fog forms, slow down and turn on your lights. Listen for other boats around you or check radar.



weather.gov



Weather-Ready for Nature?



Flash Flooding

Heavy rainfall can cause flooding in a flash. Use caution when hiking in canyons or camping near streams and rivers.



Excessive Heat

Bring extra water and remain hydrated. Use sunscreen and wear light, loose-fitting clothing. Take breaks in the shade.



Lightning

If you hear thunder or see lightning, go immediately to an enclosed building or hard-topped vehicle (if possible). Avoid isolated tall trees or ridge tops.



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Know Before You Go!

A clear sky doesn't mean that you're out of the woods.

Check [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) to know if extreme heat, storms, or other hazards could be on the horizon.



Sending Storm Reports

Ways to Send Reports

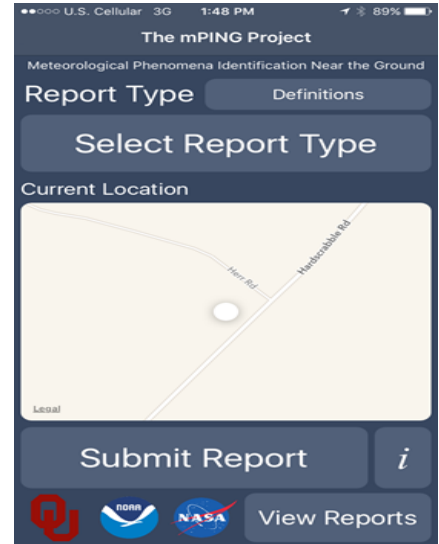
Send Report to NWS

 Call 417-863-8028
 Text 417-830-7659
 contact.sgf@noaa.gov
 @NWSSpringfield
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[iNWS Storm Reports](#)



[mPING App](#)



Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program



What is CoCoRaHS?

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, is a non-profit, community based, network of volunteers who measure and report rain, hail and snow in their backyards. Additional [About CoCoRaHS info.](#)

Who uses CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and

individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit our Web site and use our data.

Volunteers of All Ages Welcome!

Everyone can participate, both young, old, and in-between. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives. [Check out the volunteers wanted flyer.](#)

[Join CoCoRaHS Volunteer Program](#)

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Becoming a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

What do Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors Do?

Promote Preparedness and Resiliency:

- ✓ Follow our social media and share our hazardous weather and safety posts.

Collaborate with the NWS:

- ✓ Let us know how we can help you and your community become more weather ready.

Serve as an example:

- ✓ Educate employees on workplace preparedness and encouraging personal preparedness at home.



2022 WRN Ambassador of Excellence Award



Camden County, MO Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) continues to exemplify itself as a leader in the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador community. In particular, CEMA has been a leading example of preparedness on social media platforms over the last year. This effort includes engaging and educating the community on hazardous weather safety through the sharing of NWS safety messages. CEMA has illustrated to peers the value of EventReady planning at a large amphitheater to mitigate impacts of hazardous storms. CEMA is a valuable partner in building a Weather-Ready Nation and serves as an example for future ambassadors.

Pictured: Camden County EMA Director Samantha Henley (left) and NWS Springfield Meteorologist Kyle Perez (right)

[Click here to Learn More about Becoming an Ambassador](#)



Scan the QR code to Apply today!

Follow NWS Springfield

