

Thunderstorm season is approaching...are you ready?

The National Weather Service wants everyone to be part of a Weather-Ready Nation. Colorado is an annual host for tornadoes, flash floods, damaging hail, killer lightning and wind damage. Are you weather-ready? Now is the time to make sure you know how to stay safe when severe weather threatens. Therefore, the week of April 15th to 21st has been designated Colorado Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Each year, for the past 20 years, there has been an average of 40 tornadoes in Colorado. Each year, on average, three people have been killed by lightning and another 12 people have been injured by lightning. Some of the biggest insurance losses each year are due to large hail.

The National Weather Service offices which serve Colorado will issue a series of public information statements during the week covering the following topics:

- ...On Monday...watches and warnings
- ...On Tuesday...tornadoes and tornado safety
- ...On Wednesday...flood and flash flood safety
- ...On Thursday...downburst wind and hail
- ...On Friday...lightning and lightning safety
- ...On Saturday...a review of the week

Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service for a variety of thunderstorm hazards. Make sure you have a way to receive warnings. If you live in a community with a siren, understand the protocol for sounding those sirens. If you have a relatively new cell phone you will receive tornado and flash flood warnings on your phone if you are in the area of the warning. NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio is another great way to monitor the weather and receive warnings, and can be found at most hardware or electronics stores.

Safety information, watches, warnings, forecasts, current conditions, radar, and much more information is available at your local National Weather Service websites:

www.weather.gov/boulder NWS Boulder website

www.weather.gov/pueblo NWS Pueblo website

www.weather.gov/goodland NWS Goodland website

www.weather.gov/gjt NWS Grand Junction website