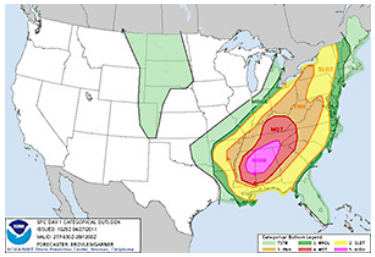
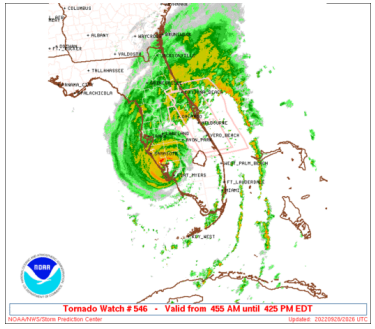
Updated: 6/4/2023

Product	What the Product Provides	What It Does Not Represent	How To Use
For more information about the Storm Prediction Center products: https://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/about.html#Convective%20Outlooks			
Convective Outlook 	• Depict non-severe and severe thunderstorm threats across the contiguous United States. • For tropical cyclones, the outlooks on Day 2 and Day 3 allow a 5% total severe probability to be a SLGT risk because they are specifically tornado-driven. • Probabilistic forecast directly expresses best estimate of a severe weather event occurring within 25 miles of a point. • Has concise, plain language summary of type(s) of threat along with timing, focused on the highest-risk areas.	• Risk forecast does <u>not</u> necessarily mean that the thunderstorms within the risk area will be slightly severe. • No two situations are alike, even within the same risk category.	• Can highlight the areas most likely to be impacted by tornadoes. • Understand that not every location within an outlook will experience severe weather or have severe/tornado watches or warnings issued.
Tornado Watch (Tropical) 	• Tornado Watches (tropical) are issued when conditions are favorable for either multiple tornadoes or a single intense tornado in association with a tropical system (storm or hurricane). • For a Tornado Watch, the lead time goal is 2 hours for the first tornado event.	• Tornadoes associated with tropical systems <u>can and do</u> occur without a watch in effect. • A watch is not a warning, and should not be interpreted as a guarantee that there will be severe weather!	• Watches encourage the general public to stay alert for changing weather conditions and probable warnings. • For emergency managers, storm spotters, and the broadcast media, watches provide valuable lead time to gear up operations and increase staffing.

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Outlook Categories

LEVEL	CATEGORY	DETAILS	SUMMARY	How many severe storms are possible?	How bad could the worst storms be?
	General Thunderstorm	Although severe weather is not expected, ***all*** thunderstorms can produce deadly lightning, gusty winds, and small hail.	No severe thunderstorms expected	None – Numerous	Similar to storms your area experiences many times per year
1	**Marginal (MRGL)**	**Some storms could be capable of damaging winds and severe hail. Localized tornado threat could develop.**	Isolated severe storms possible	None – Numerous	Similar to storms your area may experience several times per year
2	**Slight (SLGT)**	**Increased confidence that some storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornado potential.** *A few severe storms could be significant*	Isolated to scattered severe storms expected	None – Numerous	Similar to storms your area may experience a few times per year
3	**Enhanced (ENH)**	**High confidence that several storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornadoes.** *Several severe storms could be significant*	Scattered to numerous severe storms expected	None – Numerous	Similar to intense storms your area may only experience once or twice per year
4	**Moderate (MDT)**	**High confidence that many storms will contain damaging winds, severe hail, and/or tornadoes.** *Several severe storms likely to be significant*	Scattered to numerous severe storms expected	None – Numerous	Similar to intense storms your area may only experience once per year or less
5	**High (HIGH)**	**High confidence that an outbreak of storms will contain tornadoes, damaging winds, and/or severe hail.** *Tornado outbreak and/or widespread damaging winds*	Numerous severe storms expected	None – Numerous	Very intense storms your area may only experience once or twice in a lifetime

DEFINITIONS

Severe Storm

Any storm that contains at least one of the following:

Wind gusts of at least 58 mph

·

Hail at least one inch in diameter

·

Tornado

Significant Severe

Any of the following hazards:

Wind gusts of at least 75 mph

·

Hail at least two inches in diameter

·

Tornado of at least EF-2 rating

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