Message of the Day

- Enhanced risk of severe storms over much of central/southern Iowa
- Large Hail & Damaging Winds most likely hazards
- Isolated Tornadoes also a possibility, especially during afternoon
- Timing – 4 to 10 PM TODAY
- Fast Storm Motions – Northeast at 40-50 mph
- Locally moderate to heavy rainfall today = within bank river rises and/or localized ponding/flooding
- Light snow accumulations & Flash Freeze potential across N Iowa tonight

Important Forecast Changes

- Minor decrease in northern extent of severe weather potential.

Today's Severe Weather Outlook
Situation Report

Moderate Rain Today & Tonight; Light Snow North

KEY POINTS

- Rainfall amounts of 1-2” expected today (more north, less south)
- Localized flash flooding possible
- Within bank river rises and minor flooding a possibility especially into the weekend
- Areas impacted will be determined by where heaviest rain falls
- Rain will turn to snow across northern Iowa tonight – Less than an inch of accumulation expected
- Plummeting temperatures behind cold front to cause Flash Freeze in N Iowa

ACTIONS

- NEVER drive through flooded roadways
- Allow extra travel time in N Iowa Friday Morning – roads will be slick

Today’s Precipitation Forecast
Situation Report

Strong/Windy Cold Front Tonight

KEY POINTS

✓ A potent cold front will race through Iowa this evening
✓ Strong northwest winds will accompany and increase behind the cold front
  ✓ Wind gusts of 40-45 mph likely
✓ Strong wind may produce pockets of blowing snow

ACTIONS

✓ Secure any loose objects including tents & other outdoor objects
**KEY POINTS**

- As temperatures fall and winds howl tonight, wind chills will plummet
- Around -5°F in NW Iowa to the teens in S Iowa
- Coldest wind chills will be around sunrise, prior to winds slowly easing during the morning.
- Those outside will want to ensure proper clothing to stave off possible frost bite

**ACTIONS**

- Those outside will want to dress appropriately for these winter-like temperatures

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**Friday Morning Coldest Wind Chills**

![Map showing coldest wind chills](image)
Situation Report

Severe Storms, Rainfall, Winds, & Bitter Wind Chills

Situational Report Text Summary

**Hazards:** All modes of severe weather possible today. Main hazards will be large hail/damaging winds. Also can’t rule out an isolated tornado or two. Additional rainfall may cause rivers to rise into minor flooding by the weekend and early next week. Strong cold front with strong winds will cause issues for those outside, including tents or other loose structures. Falling temperatures and light snow to produce slick roads in N IA tonight. Winter-like temperatures return Friday.

**Areas Impacted:**
- Severe Weather: most of Central and Southern Iowa.
- River Flooding: northern and central Iowa.
- Winds/Cold: northern and central Iowa

**Timing & Duration:**
- Severe Weather: 4-10 PM TODAY
- Winds/Cold: Tonight & Friday Morning

**Impacts:**
- Severe Weather: Property damage and injuries.
- Winds/Cold: Primarily exposure to cold
- Both: Loose objects, including tents, will be at risk from expected strong winds and potential severe weather.

**Certainty & Considerations:** Confidence has increased in the potential strong to severe weather threat. There is high confidence in the strong winds and cold associated with the cold frontal passage tonight through Friday morning.

**Next Update:** By 8:00 pm this evening, March 19th
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 in a vehicle, outside or under an overpass. A highway overpass does not provide safety from a tornado.

DO NOT seek shelter under an overpass or a tree. This puts you at greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris from the powerful tornadic winds.

Getting Traction
Tips for Traveling in Winter Weather

- Winterize your vehicle
- Pack an emergency supply kit
- Check the NWS forecast
- Check road conditions
- Stay mobile

weather.gov/winter