



Flooding in  
Jackson County, AL  
May, 2003

## WHAT ELSE?

In addition to routine forecasts, NWS Huntsville issues a variety of weather warnings, as well as river and aviation forecasts. Daily climate data for 14 counties in Northern Alabama and Southern Middle Tennessee are collected. NWS Huntsville also broadcasts continuous weather information on six NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitters, maintains a Doppler Radar in Hytop, AL, and three Automated Surface Observing Systems.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

NWS Huntsville Homepage:

[weather.gov/huntsville](http://weather.gov/huntsville)

NOAA Weather Radio:

[weather.gov/NWR](http://weather.gov/NWR)

Weather On The Go (Mobile and SmartPhone)

[mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov)

Weather Safety:

[weather.gov/safety.php](http://weather.gov/safety.php)

## “I WANT TO KNOW MORE!”

In addition to our normal day-to-day weather responsibilities, one of our goals is to educate people about the National Weather Service and weather safety.

We provide annual Storm Spotter Training, typically a two-hour class providing participants with basic weather knowledge, along with the tools needed to identify basic storm structure and proper NWS reporting policies.

We frequently lead office tours for groups of students and professionals. As time allows, we take a “traveling classroom” to schools and businesses to educate Tennessee Valley residents on local weather hazards.

Please speak with any NWS representative to learn more, or look online at [weather.gov/huntsville](http://weather.gov/huntsville).

## NWS HUNTSVILLE

320A Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35805

Phone: 256-890-8503

Fax: 256-890-8513

E-mail: [sr-hun.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-hun.webmaster@noaa.gov)

[www.weather.gov/huntsville](http://www.weather.gov/huntsville)



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# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE, AL

*SERVING  
NORTHERN ALABAMA  
AND  
SOUTHERN MIDDLE TENNESSEE*



[www.weather.gov/huntsville](http://www.weather.gov/huntsville)

# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE, AL



As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Weather Service (NWS) in Huntsville, AL is one of 123 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO). WFO Huntsville began its current tenure on the University of Alabama at Huntsville campus in January of 2003, and is one of the newest forecast offices in the agency.



NSSTC Building (location of NWS Huntsville)

The staff of around 20 includes meteorologists, electronic and information technology personnel, as well as administrative support. Because the weather never stops, all NWS forecast offices are staffed 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, providing continuous forecast and

warning information no matter the time of day.



NWS Huntsville Meteorologist Brian Carcione prepares to issue a warning.

## SEVERE WEATHER

The primary mission of the NWS is to protect life and property, and we accomplish this goal by issuing timely severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings for the Tennessee Valley. Several severe weather events have recently impacted the area, including the January 2010 EF-2 Huntsville Tornado, and the April 2009 Lake Guntersville EF-3 Tornado.



Huntsville EF-2 Tornado  
January 21, 2010  
Photo courtesy of Tyler Pierce

***Take immediate action when a severe thunderstorm, flash flood or tornado warning is issued for your area!***

## WATCH VS. WARNING

### Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch

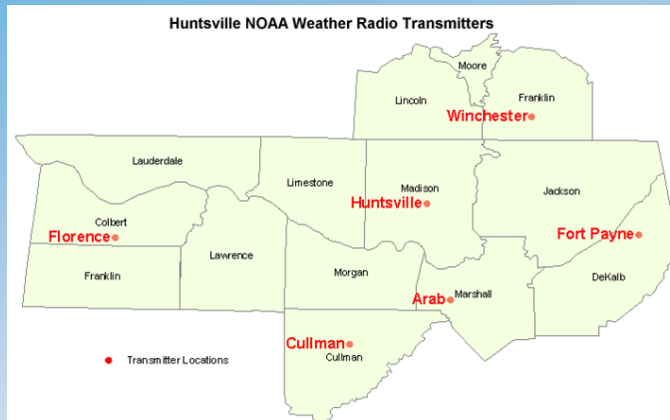
Conditions are favorable for severe storm development over the next several hours.

### Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning

Severe weather is imminent or occurring.

### What makes a storm “severe”?

- Hail at least quarter size (1 inch)
- Winds reach or exceed 50 knots
- A tornado develops



## NOAA WEATHER RADIO

The NWS utilizes NOAA Weather Radio as your 24-hour a day, 7-day a week source for weather information, including severe weather warnings. While routine programming offers the latest forecast, hazardous weather outlook, and current observations, the broadcast cycle is automatically updated whenever a watch, warning, or other weather statement is issued by the NWS in Huntsville. For more information, please see the webpage listed in this brochure.