

# Hazardous Weather Warning and Advisory Criteria

NWS Louisville KY  
2018

## **WARNING** Type and Criteria

Blizzard	Sustained winds or frequent gusts $\geq 35$ mph and considerable snow or blowing snow with visibility $\leq 1/4$ mi for 3-hr period
Winter Storm	Snow averaging $\geq 4''$ (3-5'', 3-6'', 4-8'', etc.) in $\leq 12$ hrs, or combination of significant snow, sleet, and/or freezing rain
Ice Storm	Glaze accumulation $\geq 1/4''$ from freezing rain that is a hazard to life or property
Wind Chill	Wind chill $\leq -25$ °F and wind speed near or above 10 mph
Freeze	Temperatures $\leq 30$ °F for at least 2 hrs at $\geq 3$ observation sites during the growing season
High Wind	Non-thunderstorm sustained winds $\geq 40$ mph for $\geq 1$ hr or gusts $\geq 58$ mph for any duration
Excessive Heat	Maximum heat index $\geq 110$ °F for about 2 (or more) hours
Red Flag	10-hour fuels $\leq 8\%$ , relative humidity $< 25\%$ , and 20 foot winds $> 15$ mph for several hours
Severe Thunderstorm	Thunderstorm with report or radar indication of $\geq 1$ inch diameter hail, winds $\geq 58$ mph, or storm damage
Tornado	Thunderstorm with radar indication of significant low-level rotation in a favorable environment, or a reported tornado
Flash Flood	Very high rain rates from slow-moving storms, and/or reported flowing water. Threatens life/property.

## **ADVISORY** Type and Criteria

Winter Weather	Snow averaging 1-4'' (1'', 1-3'', 2-4'', etc.) in $\leq 12$ hrs, or combination of snow, sleet, and/or freezing rain
Wind Chill	Wind chill -10 °F to -24 °F and wind speed near or above 10 mph
Frost	Widespread frost expected with temperatures $\leq 35$ °F for at least 2 hrs at $\geq 3$ observation sites during the growing season
Wind	Non-thunderstorm sustained winds $\geq 30$ mph for $\geq 1$ hr or gusts $\geq 40$ mph for any duration
Heat	Max heat index $\geq 105$ °F for about 2 (or more) hours
Dense Fog	Widespread visibilities $\leq 1/4$ mi for $\geq 2$ hours
Flood	Heavy rain that causes low-impact/low-lying flooding and significant ponding of water on roads