

Hazardous Weather Warning and Advisory Criteria

NWS Louisville KY

2025

WARNING Type and Criteria	
Blizzard	Sustained winds or frequent gusts ≥ 35 mph and considerable S/BS with vsbys $\leq 1/4$ mi for 3-hr period.
Snow Squall	Intense, but limited duration, periods of heavy snowfall and gusty surface winds resulting in visibility $\leq 1/4$ mile.
Winter Storm	Snow averaging $\geq 4''$ (3-5'', 3-6'', 4-8'', etc.) in an event*, or combo of significant S, IP, or ZR. Think impact.
Ice Storm	Ice (ZR) accum $\geq 1/4''$ that is a hazard to life or property. ZR is the only precip type expected.
Extreme Cold**	Apparent Temperature ≤ -10 °F in south-central KY and ≤ -15 °F in the rest of CWA .
Freeze***	Temps ≤ 32 °F in the locally defined growing season
High Wind	Non-thunderstorm sustained winds ≥ 40 mph for ≥ 1 hr or gusts ≥ 58 mph for any duration.
Excessive Heat**	Max heat index ≥ 110 °F for about ≥ 2 hrs.
Red Flag****	10-hour fuels $\leq 8\%$, RH $< 25\%$, 20 foot winds > 15 mph for several hours.
Severe T-storm	T-storm with report or radar-indication of ≥ 1 inch hail, winds ≥ 58 mph, or storm damage.
Tornado	T-storm with radar-indication of signif low-level rotation in favorable environment, or reported tornado.
Flash Flood	Very high rain rates from slow-moving storms, and/or reported flowing water. Threatens life/property.

*The event duration will be determined by the issuing office, but it will not exceed 48 hours. If an event will last longer than 48 hours, offices should highlight the period of greatest impacts or separate into multiple events.

**Per [NWS Directive 10-515](#), criteria are guidance, forecasters may issue headlines based upon lower criteria if the event in question poses a significant threat to life due to timing or other circumstances.

***NWS Louisville works with University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture before making a headline decision.

****NWS Louisville works with Forestry Officials before making a headline decision.

ADVISORY Type and Criteria	
Winter Weather	Snow averaging $< 4''$ (0.5-1'', 1-3'', 2-4'', etc.) in an event, or combo of S, IP, or ZR. Think impact.
Cold Weather	Apparent Temperature 0 °F to -10 °F in south-central KY and -5 °F to -15 °F in the rest of CWA .
Frost	Widespread frost expected with temps ≤ 35 °F for at least 2 hrs at ≥ 3 obs sites during growing season.
Wind	Non-thunderstorm sustained winds ≥ 30 mph for ≥ 1 hr or gusts ≥ 40 mph for any duration.
Heat	Max heat index ≥ 105 °F for about ≥ 2 hrs.
Dense Fog	Widespread visibilities $\leq 1/4$ mi for ≥ 2 hrs.
Flood	Heavy rain that causes low-impact/low-lying flooding and significant ponding of water on roads.