

WFO Milwaukee/Sullivan – Thresholds for Warnings & Advisories

CONVECTIVE AND HYDRO EVENTS	THRESHOLDS
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING - SVR	Winds = > 58 mph (or implied by damage), and/or Hail= >1 Inch
TORNADO WARNING - TOR	Tornado sighted by spotters or imminent based on radar
FLASH FLOOD WARNING - FFW	Flooding that produces life/property threat within 0-6 hrs of causative event
FLOOD WARNING - FFW	Flooding that produces life/property threat within 6-12 hrs of causative event
FLOOD WARNING (MAINSTEM RIVER) - FLW	Flooding that produces life/property threat when river level reaches or exceeds local flood stage.
URBAN/SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY- FLS	Inconvenience flooding in 0 - 24 Hrs
COLD-SEASON EVENTS	THRESHOLDS
WINTER STORM WARNING – WSW <i>*Forecaster discretion according to the ‘apple plan’ should be used for events that may not officially reach warning criteria, but have a significant impact on society.</i>	One or more of the following weather events <= 12 hours (unless otherwise stated): - more than 6” of snow (or 8” <= 24 hrs) - freezing rain (< ¼ inch and while accompanied by another event) - sleet accumulations of 2 inches or more - intermittent blowing snow reducing visibilities to <½ mile & winds 25-34 mph, or closed roads - forecaster discretion example: <= 6” of snow with sustained winds/frequent gusts of 25-34 mph
BLIZZARD WARNING – WSW	Sustained winds or frequent gusts = > 35 mph and falling/blowing snow with vsbys near ¼ mile or less for 3 hr or more
LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING – WSW	> 6” of heavy lake effect snow showers or snow squalls within 12 hrs, or = > 8” within 24 hrs
ICE STORM WARNING – WSW	Ice accumulations = > ¼ inch within 12 hours
WIND CHILL WARNING – WSW	Wind chills 35 below or colder with winds at least 4 mph for 3 hr or more
WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY – WSW	One or more of the following weather events in 12 hours or less: - 3 - 6” of snow - freezing rain (< ¼ inch and while accompanied by another event) - sleet accumulations of < 2 inches - intermittent blowing snow reducing visibilities to <½ mile & winds < 25 mph
LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY - WSW	3 - 6” of lake effect snow showers or snow squalls in 12 hours or less
FREEZING RAIN ADVISORY - WSW	Less than ¼ inch of ice in 12 hours or less
WIND CHILL ADVISORY - WSW	Wind chills 20 below to 34 below with winds at least 4 mph for 3 hr or more
NON-PCPN EVENTS	THRESHOLDS
HIGH WIND WARNING - NPW	Sustained winds 40 mph or more for 1 hr or more, or any gust 58 mph or more
EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING - NPW	HI >= 105 during the day and HI = > 75 at night for a 48-hr period, or advisory conditions (HI 100 or higher) for 4 consecutive days or more
RED FLAG WARNING - NPW	Winds 15+ mph at 20-foot level, RH 25% or less, temps 75+ F, and critically dry fuels - extreme fire danger behavior
FREEZE WARNING - NPW	During growing season, widespread temps around 31 or less resulting in frozen vegetation
DUST STORM WARNING - NPW	Widespread/local blowing dust reducing vsbys to 1/4 mile or less for 3 hrs or more, winds =>40 mph
AIR STAGNATION ADVISORY - NPW	Major buildup of air pollution, smoke, dust, gases (State DNR usually issues statement as well)
HEAT ADVISORY - NPW	HI = > 100 during the day or HI 95-99 for 4 consecutive days or more
WIND ADVISORY - NPW	Sustained winds 30 mph or more for 1 hr or more, or any gust 45 to 57 mph
FROST ADVISORY - NPW	During growing season, widespread frost with temps 32 – 39F
DENSE FOG ADVISORY - NPW	Widespread vsbys = < 1/4 mile, for 3 hours or more
FREEZING FOG ADVISORY - NPW	Fog freezing deposits on cold objects resulting impacting transportation. Vsbys generally less than 3 miles.
ASHFALL ADVISORY - NPW	Ashfall from volcanic eruption, forest fire, or indirectly from wind suspending ash. Vsbys <= ¼ mile
DENSE SMOKE ADVISORY - NPW	Widespread or localized vsbys to = < 1/4 mile to 1 mile or less for 3 hrs or more
BLOWING DUST ADVISORY - NPW	Widespread/localized vsbys = < 1/4 mile to 1 mile for 3 hrs or more with winds 30 mph or more

MARINE EVENTS	THRESHOLDS
<i>SPECIAL MARINE WARNING - SMW</i>	Winds (convective or non-convective) 34 kts or more for 2 hrs or less, hail ¼ inch or larger, or waterspouts
<i>HURRICANE FORCE WIND WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i>	Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 64 kts or greater
<i>STORM WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i>	Sustained winds or freq gusts of 48 to 63 kts
<i>GALE WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i>	Sustained winds or freq gusts of 34 to 47 kts
<i>FREEZING SPRAY WARNING – CHIGFLM & MWW</i>	Temps 20-30F & winds = > 34 kts, or 10-19F & = >25 kts, or <10F & > 20 kts
<i>LAKESHORE FLOOD WARNING - CFW</i>	Significant lakeshore flooding, erosion, ice jam, or seiche
<i>SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY - MWW</i>	Winds 22 to 33 kts and/or waves > 4 ft
<i>DENSE FOG ADVISORY - MWW</i>	Widespread vsbys = < 1 mile, for 3 hours or more
<i>ASHFALL ADVISORY - MWW</i>	Ashfall from volcanic eruption, forest fire, or indirectly from wind suspending ash. Vsbys <= ¼ mile

Updated 06/07/12

J:sdm/WSWfiles/MKXWrngAdvyCheetsheet (.doc and .pdf format)