



# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

# Spring Weather Safety



Know Your Risk, Take Action, Be a Force of Nature

[weather.gov/safety](https://weather.gov/safety)

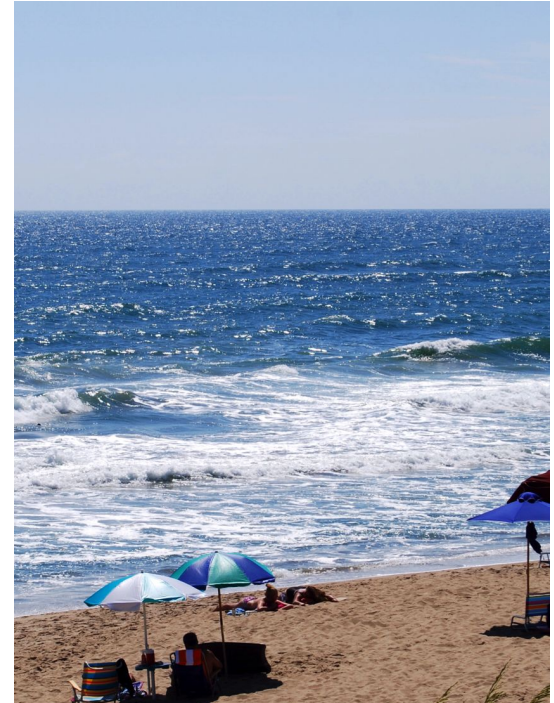
# Spring Weather Hazards

- Rip Currents
- Tornadoes
- Thunderstorms
- Lightning
- Flooding
- Tsunamis
- Heat
- Spring Break Safety



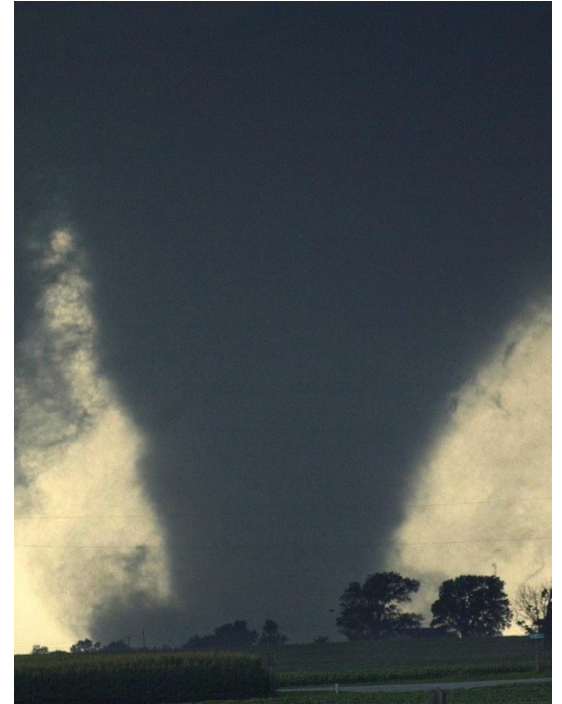
# Rip Currents & Beach Hazards

- Beach flags help alert swimmers about potential dangers such as high surf or strong rip currents
- Look for beach flags before you enter the water
- If caught in a rip current, swim parallel to the beach to escape

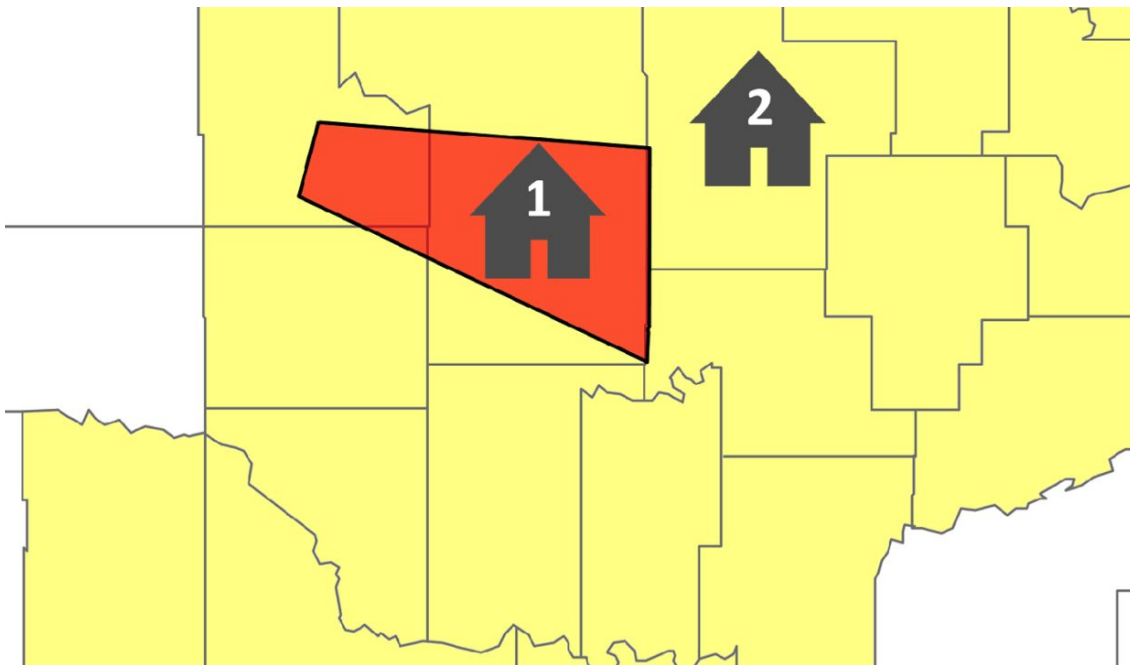


# Tornadoes

- Winds from tornadoes can exceed 200 mph
- Flying debris is very dangerous, and most often the cause of death and injuries
- Seek a sturdy shelter in a basement, storm shelter, or interior room away from windows on the lowest floor and cover your head
- Every tornado should be seen as life-threatening



# NWS Tornado Products



## Tornado Warning

Tornado expected! Seek shelter.  
A tornado is occurring or will shortly at this location on the map.

## Tornado Watch

Tornado possible. Be prepared.  
Weather conditions favor thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes at this location on the map.

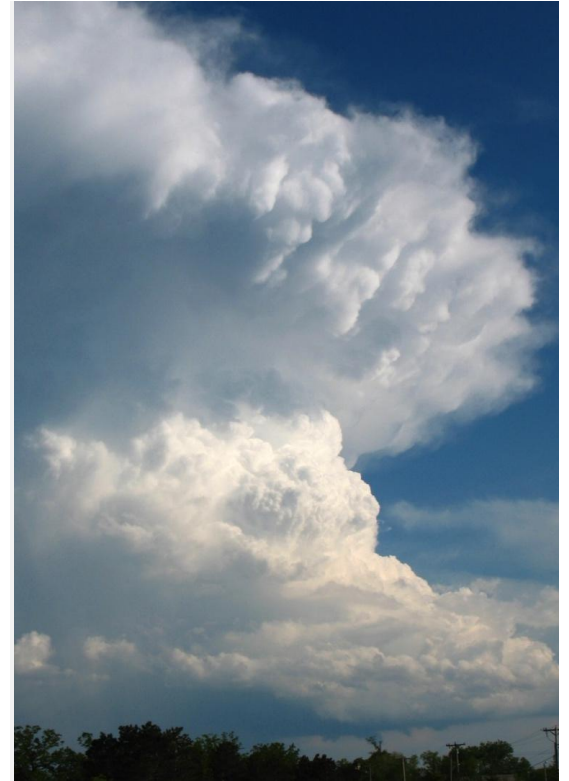
Wireless Emergency Alert

 **Emergency Alert**  
Tornado warning for this area until 815 pm. Take shelter immediately. Check local media. - NWS

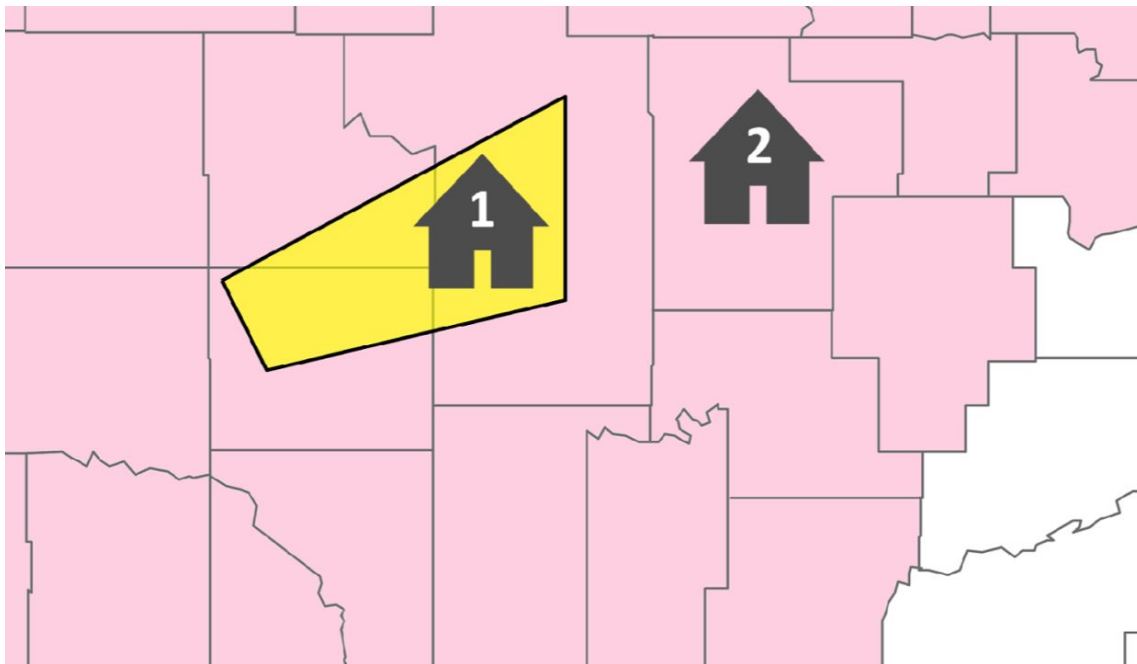
A smartphone notification interface showing a 'Wireless Emergency Alert' at the top. Below it is a warning icon (a triangle with an exclamation mark) followed by the text 'Emergency Alert' and 'Tornado warning for this area until 815 pm. Take shelter immediately. Check local media. - NWS'. The notification is set against a dark background with white text.

# Thunderstorms

- Severe thunderstorms produce damaging wind and/or large hail
- Take shelter in a sturdy structure away from windows — a basement or cellar would be best
- Being in a vehicle is safer than being outside



# NWS Severe Thunderstorm Products



## Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Severe storms expected! Seek shelter.  
Large hail or damaging wind is occurring  
or will shortly at this location on the map.

## Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Severe storms possible. Be prepared.  
Weather conditions favor thunderstorms  
capable of producing large hail or  
damaging wind at this location on the map.



# Lightning

- Thunderstorms produce lightning
- Lightning kills an average of 30 people every year
- Take shelter inside a sturdy structure
- A hard-topped vehicle is also a safe location





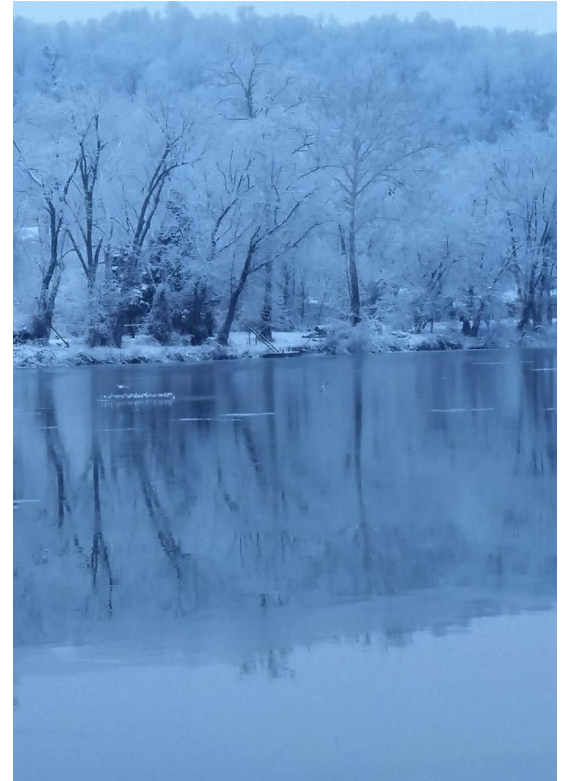
# Flooding

- Flooding can be caused by snow melt, ice jams, and heavy rain
- More than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related
- Never drive into flooded roadways, or around barricades



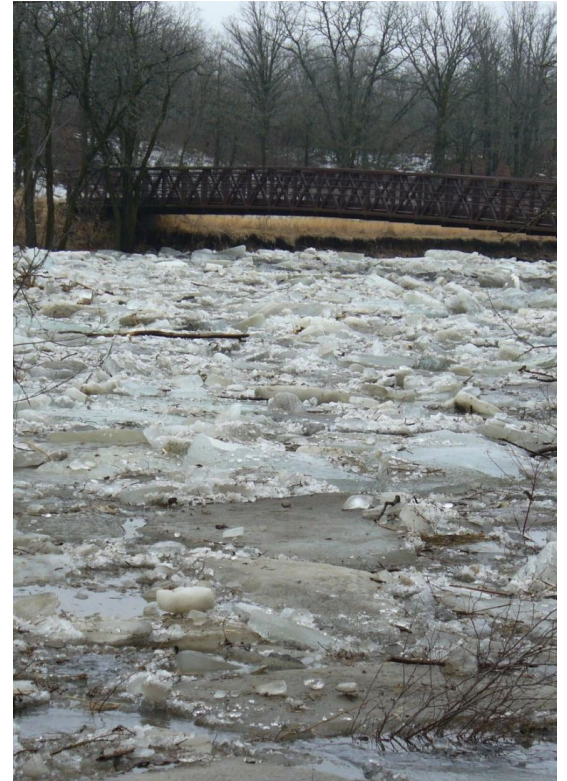
# Snow Melt

- Water stored in the snowpack goes into rivers when the snow melts in spring
- Spring flooding can affect large river basins
- Never drive through flood waters and obey road signs



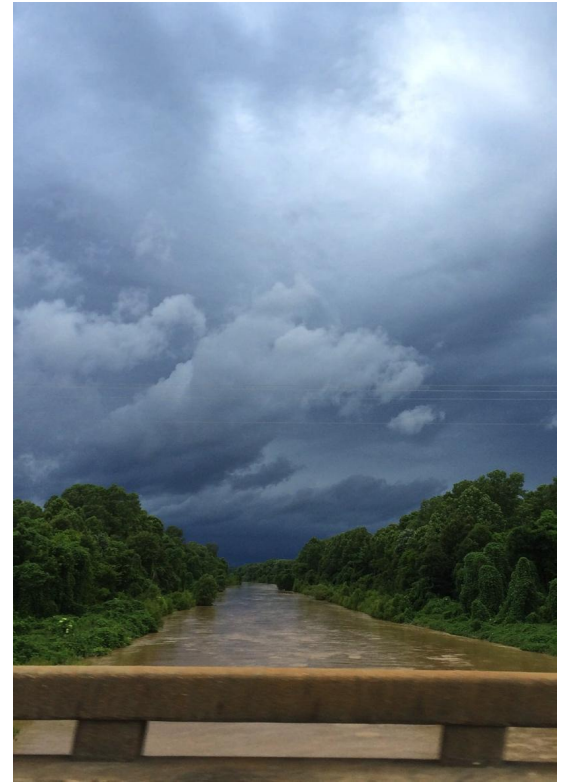
# Ice Jams

- Ice jam flooding occurs when chunks of ice build up and prevent water from flowing downstream
- This can lead to rapid rises upstream from the ice jam
- Never drive through flood waters

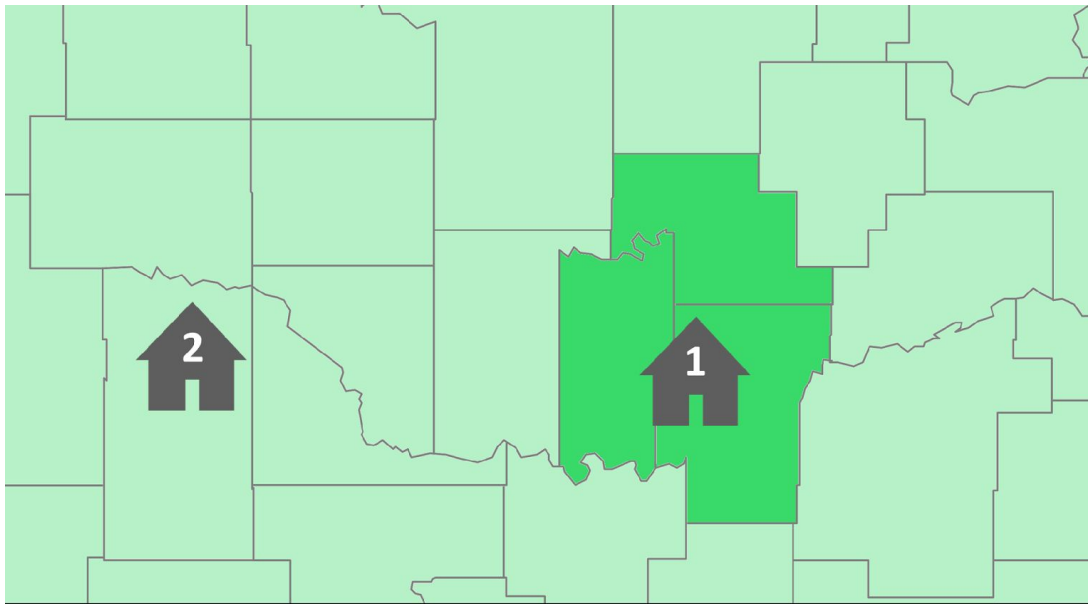


# Heavy Rain

- Heavy rain on saturated soil can lead to flooding
- More than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related
- It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car
- Turn around, don't drown!



# NWS Flood Products



## Flood Warning

Flooding expected! Take Action.  
Confidence is high that flooding which poses a significant threat to life and property is occurring or will shortly. Seek higher ground if you are in a flood-prone area. Never drive through flood waters!

## Flood Watch

Flooding possible. Be Prepared.  
Confidence is medium that flooding may develop. Find out if you are in a flood-prone area. Check the forecast and be ready to take action if a flood warning is issued.

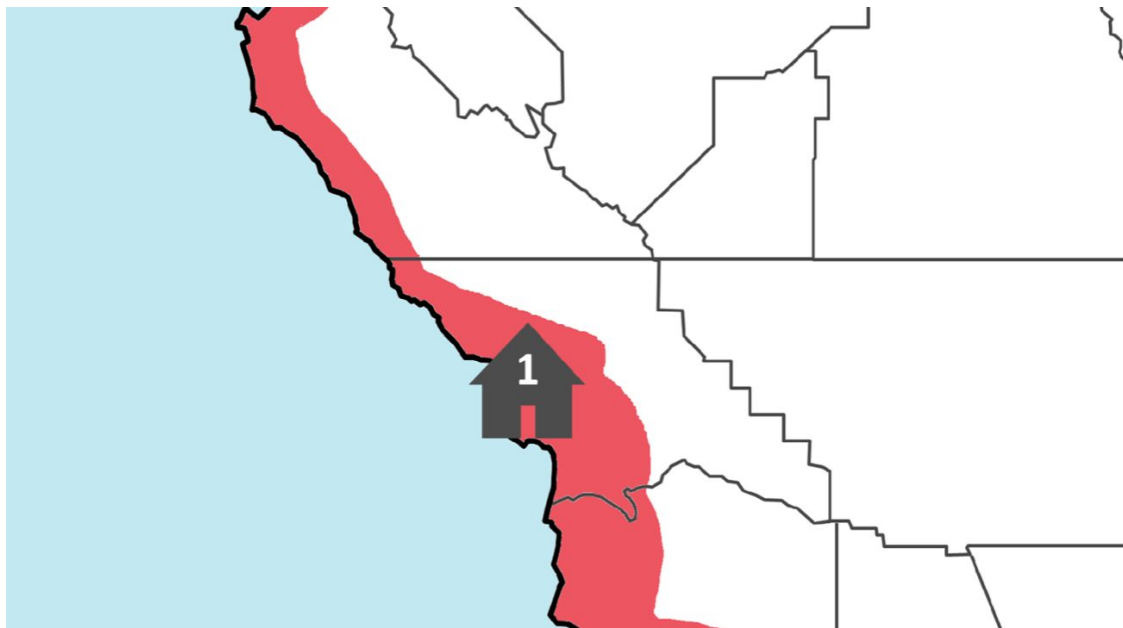


# Tsunamis

- A tsunami is one of the most powerful and destructive forces of nature
- Know nature's warnings: strong or long quake, sudden ocean rise or fall, ocean roar
- Respond to warnings: move to high ground or inland



# NWS Tsunami Products



## Tsunami Warning

A Tsunami is expected! Take Action!  
Danger! A tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. Move to high ground or inland immediately!

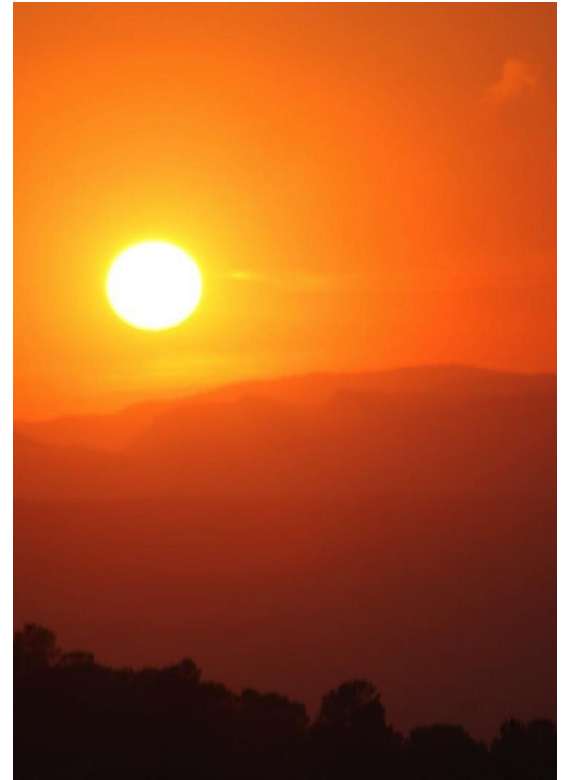


NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

[weather.gov/safety](https://www.weather.gov/safety)

# Heat Safety

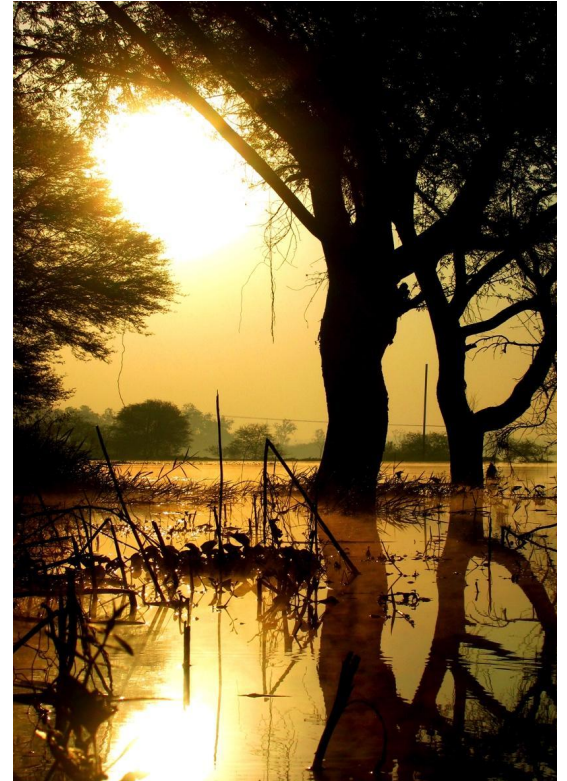
- Even in the Spring, heat and humidity can take a toll on the body
- Know the signs of heat illness
- Reschedule outdoor work and strenuous activities for another day or until the coolest time of day
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water



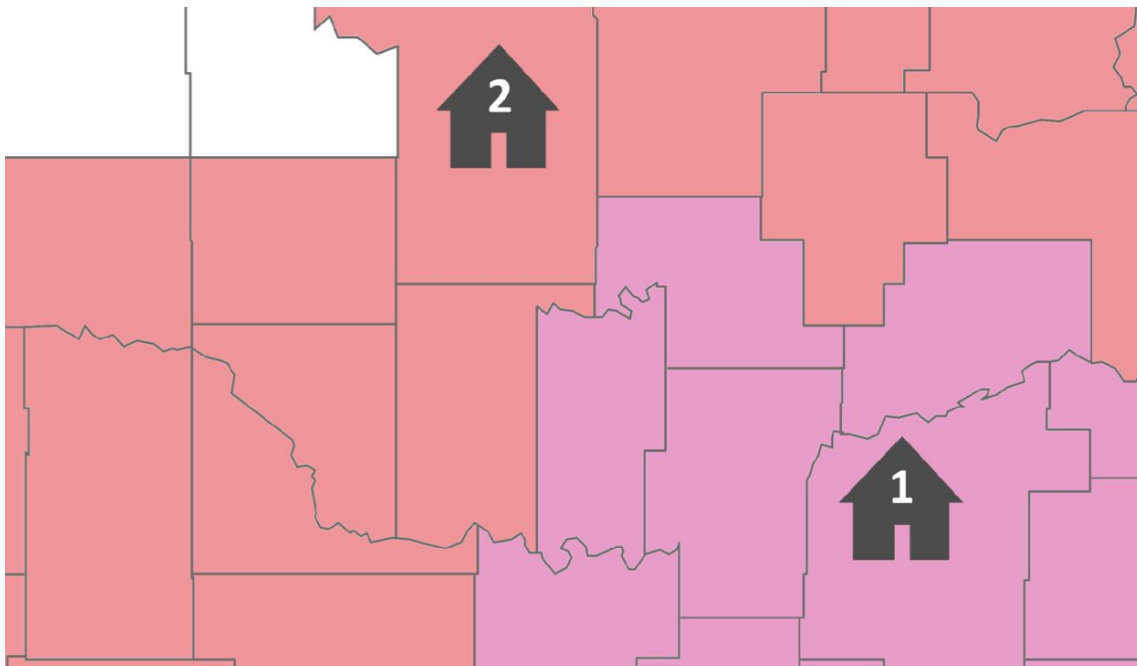


# Heat Safety

- Sunburn and heat illness can be avoided
- Apply and reapply sunscreen to protect your skin from sunburn
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water
- NEVER leave children, the elderly or pets in parked, unattended vehicles



# NWS Heat Products



## Excessive Heat Warning

Excessive Heat Expected! Take Action. Confidence is high that extremely hot weather will cause significant stress on the people and animals unless precautionary measures are taken. Avoid direct sunlight, drink plenty of fluids, and find a cool indoor place is possible.

## Excessive Heat Watch

Excessive Heat Possible. Be Prepared. Confidence is medium that extremely hot weather will develop across the region. Have a plan in place to avoid strenuous activity during the warmest parts of the day. Make sure children, elderly, and pets are taken care of in case extreme heat develops.

# Spring Safety Resources

[weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent](https://weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent)  
[weather.gov/safety/tornado](https://weather.gov/safety/tornado)  
[weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm](https://weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm)  
[weather.gov/safety/lightning](https://weather.gov/safety/lightning)  
[weather.gov/safety/flood](https://weather.gov/safety/flood)  
[weather.gov/safety/tsunami](https://weather.gov/safety/tsunami)  
[weather.gov/safety/heat](https://weather.gov/safety/heat)



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

[weather.gov/safety](https://weather.gov/safety)