



Terms Used by the National Weather Service

Outlook

- Issued as initial notice of a potential hazardous weather or flooding event. The *outlook* raises public awareness of the possibility of a severe weather or flooding event. Plans may be made to prepare for the event, should the outlook be upgraded to a watch. An *outlook* is issued 72 to 36 hours before the occurrence of the event.

Watch

- A *watch* is issued when the probability of a hazardous weather or flooding event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, or timing is still uncertain. The public can set their plans in motion to prepare for the event. A *watch* is issued from 36 to 12 hours before the occurrence of the event.

Warning

- A warning is issued when hazardous weather conditions or flood events are occurring, are imminent, or have a very high probability of occurrence. A warning is typically issued within 12 hours of a life or property-threatening event.

Advisory

- Less serious conditions that can cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

High Wind

- Sustained winds of 40 mph or higher, or gusts greater than 57 mph (not due to thunderstorms), that are expected to last for an extended period of time.

Severe Thunderstorm

- A thunderstorm that produces either of the following: damaging winds of 58 miles an hour or greater, hail $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter or larger, or a tornado. Severe thunderstorms can result in the loss of life and property.

Slight Chance

- A 1 - 25% probability that one point in a forecast area will have precipitation.

Sustained Winds

- Wind speed determined by averaging observed values over a 1-minute period.

Tornado

- A violently rotating column of air that is in contact with the ground. Tornadoes usually develop from severe thunderstorms and can produce winds of 100 to 300 mph.

Wind Chill

- An apparent temperature that describes the combined effect of wind and low air temperatures on exposed skin.