



## Severe Weather Watch and Warning Definitions

- ⚠️ **Flood Watch** - High flow or overflow of water from a river is possible in the given time period. It can also apply to heavy runoff or drainage of water into low-lying areas. These watches are generally issued for flooding that is expected to occur at least 6 hours after heavy rains have ended.
- ⚠️ **Flood Warning** - Flooding conditions are **actually occurring** or are imminent in the warning area. **Take action immediately.**
- ⚠️ **Flash Flood Watch** - Flash flooding is possible in or close to the watch area. Flash Flood Watches are generally issued for flooding that is expected to occur within 6 hours after heavy rains have ended.
- ⚠️ **Flash Flood Warning** - Flash flooding is **actually occurring** or imminent in the warning area. It can be issued as a result of torrential rains, a dam failure, or ice jam. **Take action immediately.**
- ⚠️ **Tornado Watch** - Conditions are conducive to the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.
- ⚠️ **Tornado Warning** - A tornado has **actually been sighted** by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area. **Take action immediately.**
- ⚠️ **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** - Conditions are conducive to the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.
- ⚠️ **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - A severe thunderstorm has **actually been observed** by spotters or indicated on radar, and is occurring or imminent in the warning area. **Take action immediately.**
- ⚠️ **Tropical Storm Watch** - Tropical storm conditions with sustained winds from 39 to 73 mph are possible in the watch area within the next 36 hours.
- ⚠️ **Tropical Storm Warning** - Tropical storm conditions are expected in the warning area **within the next 24 hours.**
- ⚠️ **Hurricane Watch** - Hurricane conditions (sustained winds greater than 73 mph) are possible in the watch area within 36 hours.
- ⚠️ **Hurricane Warning** - A hurricane warning is issued when a hurricane with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher is expected in a specified coastal area in **24 hours or less**; warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continues, even though the winds may have subsided below hurricane intensity.

**Keep this with your WeatherAlert Radio!**



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# Be Prepared!

## Make plans & practice monthly.

- 1) **Check the weather forecast every day.** There are very few surprises. The forecast will let you know to be on heightened alert. Use your WeatherAlert radio.
- 2) **Have an escape plan at home, at work, and when traveling (hotels, meetings...)**
- 3) **Have a shelter plan at home and at work.**
- 4) **Have an evacuation plan (several routes) to get out of the area from home and from work.**
- 5) **Know where you are at all times.** If you need to call for help you will need to be able to tell emergency responders where you are.
- 6) **Have a common point of contact, out of the area or state, in case your family gets separated.**
- 7) **Prepare a GRAB & GO KIT.** This should have the necessities in case you have to leave immediately. The kit may be different for summer/winter.
- 8) **If going to a large event,** write down what your children are wearing. Safety pin your contact information inside their clothing.
- 9) **Don't forget to include your pets in the plans!**
- 10) **Adjust the plan for temporary mobility conditions like the need for crutches, pregnancy, etc.**

## More information can be found at:

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.prepare.org](http://www.prepare.org)

[www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm)

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

[www.citizencorps.gov/cert/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/)

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)

and Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide (PDPG)

<http://www.operationhope.org/service/sid/13>

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