



National Weather Service

Definitions for SEVERE WEATHR

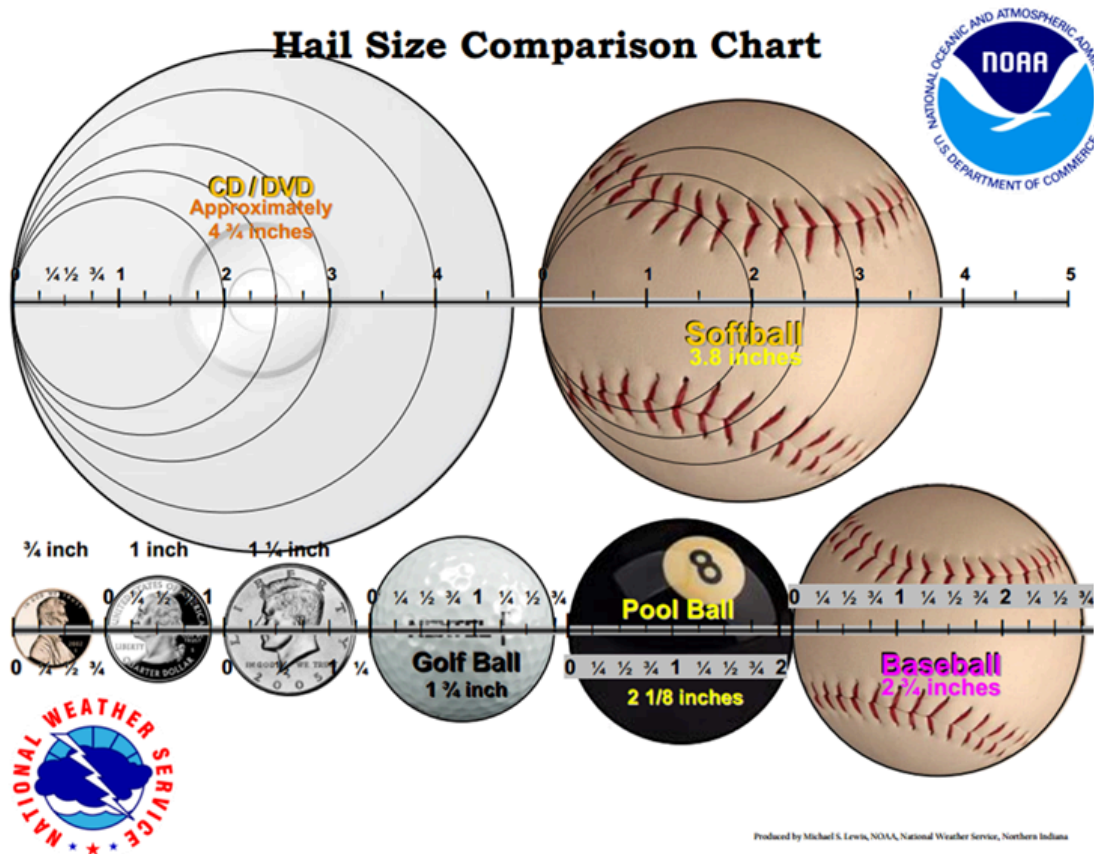
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM: a thunderstorm that produces one or more of the following:

- hail 1 inch or greater
- damage to trees, telephone/utility poles and/or any structure
- winds greater than 58 mph
- tornado

SIGNIFICANT SEVERE: if any of the following hazards occur:

- hail 2 inch or greater
- winds of at least 75 mph
- tornado of at least EF-2 rating

Lightning (and the resulting thunder) is what makes a storm a thunderstorm but does not make one severe.





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Definitions for SEVERE WEATHR

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH /BE PREPARED/ - issued when severe thunderstorms are **possible**. The watch is issued for a large area and is usually in effect for several hours.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch Means Be Prepared.
Damaging wind and large hail are possible.

- Have a way to receive weather warnings
- Check for forecast updates
- Have a shelter planned
- Stay weather ready

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SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING /TAKE ACTION/ - issued when severe weather is **imminent or occurring** and is usually in effect for about an hour.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning Means TAKE ACTION!
Damaging winds and large hail are expected.

- Take shelter indoors immediately
- Use caution while driving
- Check forecast updates
- Stay weather ready

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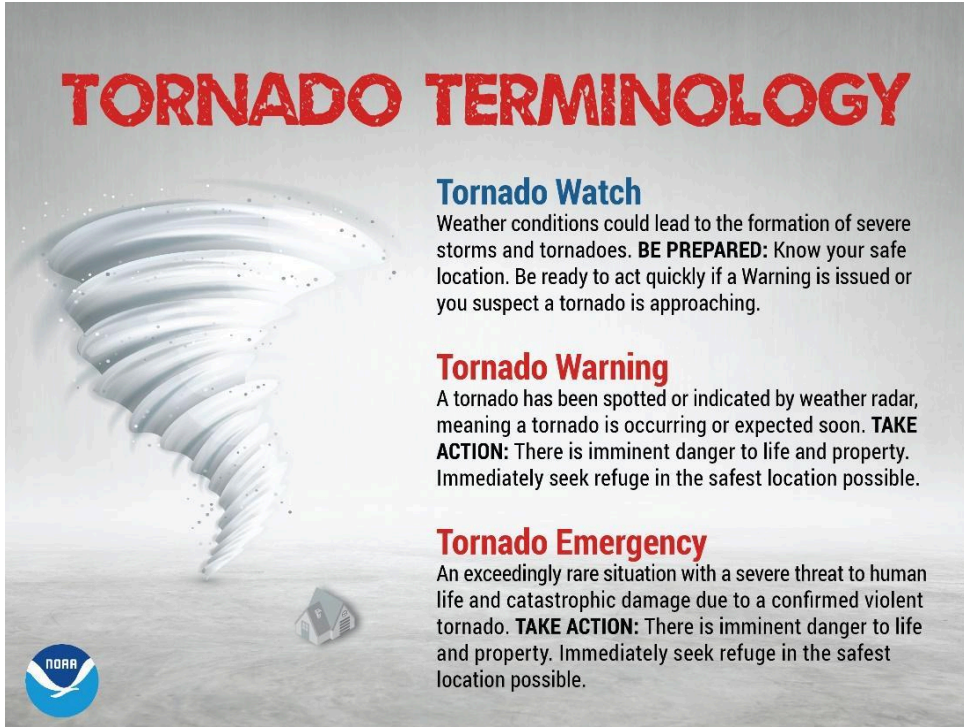


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TORNADO WATCH /BE PREPARED/ - issued when severe thunderstorms also **may produce** tornadoes. The watch is issued for a large area and is usually in effect for several hours.

TORNADO WARNING /TAKE ACTION/ - issued when a tornado is **imminent or occurring** and is usually in effect for 45 minutes or less

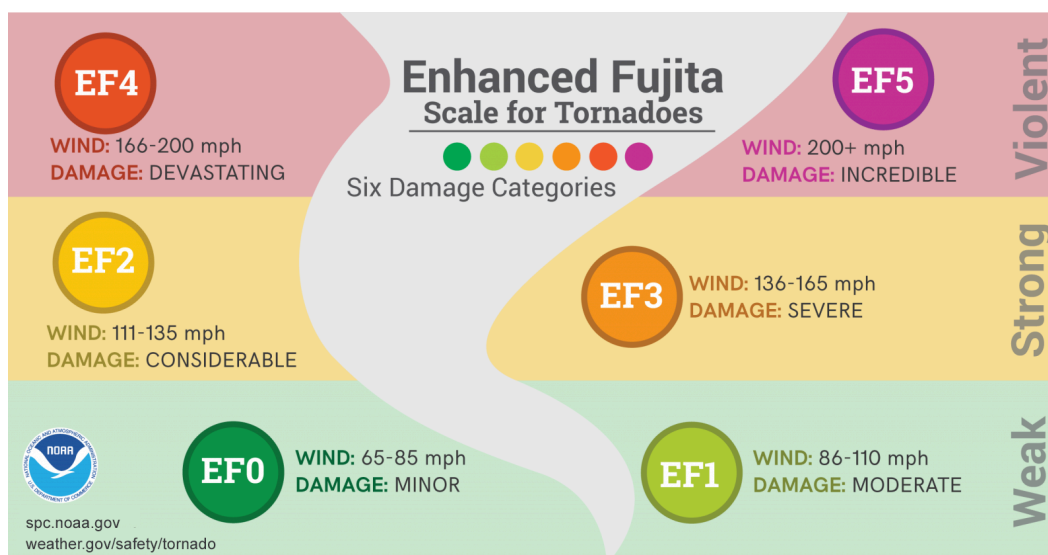



TORNADO TERMINOLOGY

Tornado Watch
Weather conditions could lead to the formation of severe storms and tornadoes. **BE PREPARED:** Know your safe location. Be ready to act quickly if a Warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Tornado Warning
A tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, meaning a tornado is occurring or expected soon. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

Tornado Emergency
An exceedingly rare situation with a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage due to a confirmed violent tornado. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.





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Definitions for SEVERE WEATHR

TORNADO: a funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from the base of a severe thunderstorm which is rapidly rotating and comes into contact with the ground or any objects on the ground

WATERSPOUT: a tornado that occurs over the waters

FUNNEL CLOUD: a funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from the base of a thunderstorm which is rapidly rotating and does NOT come into contact with the ground or objects on the ground

