

WARNING, WATCH, OR ADVISORY

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



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When it comes to weather, the spring season could be very nice or it could be rather alarming. That's because, during this time of the year, the world is transitioning from cold weather to warm temperatures, or the opposite if you're in the southern hemisphere.

To better prepare for unexpected weather conditions, it's important to know the difference between a storm warning, a watch, and an advisory. Knowing the difference will help everyone take the proper steps to protect themselves and their property.

FLOOD WARNING

A flood warning is issued when water is already overflowing onto dry land or is very close to doing so. If your local news issues a flood warning, **TAKE ACTION**. Move to higher ground and do not drive through flooded roads.



FLOOD WATCH

If your community is under a flood watch, that means that conditions are favorable for water to overflow onto normally dry land. You don't need to take immediate action but stay informed and be prepared.



WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY (ICE)

A Winter Weather Advisory is issued when light ice accumulation is expected but won't reach warning criteria. During an advisory, travel can still be hazardous, as there could be a glaze on the roads. Don't drive at fast speeds and use caution while driving.



ICE STORM WARNING

An Ice Storm Warning indicates ice accumulation of **1/4 inch or more**. This amount of ice accumulation makes travel dangerous or impossible. These conditions could also lead to snapped power lines, which causes power outages. The best thing to do in this situation is to stay at home.



TORNADO WARNING

If your city has issued a Tornado Warning, that means that a thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado is imminent. In this scenario, you must take shelter immediately! The best places to take shelter during a tornado are your basement and the interior rooms of your home, where there are no windows.



TORNADO WATCH

During a Tornado Watch, stay up to date on the latest weather alerts and be prepared. Conditions are favorable for the development of thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes. Designate a specific room in your home as your tornado shelter, in case it turns into a Tornado Warning.



For more information on how to stay safe during spring storms, visit weather.gov.

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