

Watch versus Warning



- Watch
 - Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.
- Warning
 - The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding.

Severe Weather Safety Tips: Warning vs. Watch

Provided by: Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM)



Weather Type	Watch	Warning
Severe Thunderstorm	Severe thunderstorms are possible in and close to the watch area.	Severe weather has been reported or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate impending danger to life and property.
Tornado	Tornadoes are possible in and close to the watch area.	Tornado(s) have been sighted or is indicated by radar. Seek shelter immediately.
Fire Weather	Conditions are favorable for red flag conditions in and close to the watch area in the next 12 to 48 hours.	Red Flag Warning: fire danger very high or extreme, Sustained winds \geq 15 mph and relative humidity \leq 25%, scattered dry thunderstorms, increased storm activity after a prolonged dry period, abrupt change in wind speed and direction that may affect the area.
Flood	Potential exists for a river to exceed flood stage in the next 12 to 72 hours.	River is expected to exceed flood stage in the next 48 hours. Loss of life or property is possible.
Flash Flood	The potential exists for heavy rains to create flash flooding in the next 6 to 24 hours.	Flash flood conditions are occurring or are expected to occur soon. Loss of life or property is possible.
Winter Storm	Conditions are favorable for hazardous winter weather including heavy snow, blizzard conditions, or significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet in the next 12 to 48 hours. It may also include wind chills if they are expected with the above listed events.	Any combination of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4" of snow or more in 12 hours or 6" of snow or more in 24 hours. • Accumulation of 1/4" or more of ice.

