

# **Basic Weather Information for Businesses & Events (Under COVID 19 Restrictions)**

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# Contact Information

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# Outline

- Hazards
- Getting a local forecast/weather information
- Weather considerations for outdoor seating & events
- Multiple ways to get warnings
- For more information
- Questions



# Hazards - Extreme Heat

- Know the terms used by the National Weather Service during extreme heat: Heat Wave, Excessive Heat Watch, Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Warning, and Heat Index.
- Stay out of the sun. If you must be in the sun, wear sunscreen (at least SPF 15) and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Stay in the shade or under awnings as much as possible.
- Avoid overexertion and strenuous outdoor activities.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes that cover as much skin as possible to prevent sunburn.
- Consume plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty. Water, diluted juices, and electrolyte solutions are best. Stay away from carbonated drinks.



# Hazards - Thunderstorms

- Storms may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines
- Storms can be most severe when affecting one location for an extended time
- Storms typically produce heavy rain for a brief period
- Resources for Lightning information:  
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-toolkits>



# Hazards - Flooding

- One of the most common hazards in the United States
- Some floods develop slowly
- Flash floods develop quickly
- Risks are greater in low-lying areas, near water, or downstream from a dam









# Hazards - Tornadoes

- Nature's most violent storms
- Every state is at some risk
- Tornadoes may strike quickly with little or no warning
- They generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm
- Champaign Co ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the state in terms of frequencies of tornadoes.



# Hazards - Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

| Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories   |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>THUNDERSTORMS</b><br>(no label)  | <b>1 - MARGINAL</b><br>(MRGL)  | <b>2 - SLIGHT</b><br>(SLGT)  | <b>3 - ENHANCED</b><br>(ENH)   | <b>4 - MODERATE</b><br>(MDT)   | <b>5 - HIGH</b><br>(HIGH)   |
| No severe*<br>thunderstorms<br>expected   | Isolated severe<br>thunderstorms<br>possible   | Scattered<br>severe storms<br>possible   | Numerous<br>severe storms<br>possible  | Widespread<br>severe storms<br>likely  | Widespread<br>severe storms<br>expected   |
| Lightning/flooding<br>threats exist with<br><u>all</u> thunderstorms  | Limited in duration<br>and/or coverage<br>and/or intensity   | Short-lived and/or<br>not widespread,<br>isolated intense<br>storms possible   | More persistent<br>and/or widespread,<br>a few intense   | Long-lived,<br>widespread and<br>intense   | Long-lived, very<br>widespread and<br>particularly intense                              |
|   |                                        |    |   |    |     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds to 40 mph</li> <li>• Small hail</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds 40-60 mph</li> <li>• Hail up to 1"</li> <li>• Low tornado risk</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two tornadoes</li> <li>• Reports of strong winds/wind damage</li> <li>• Hail ~1", isolated 2"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few tornadoes</li> <li>• Several reports of wind damage</li> <li>• Damaging hail, 1 - 2"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong tornadoes</li> <li>• Widespread wind damage</li> <li>• Destructive hail, 2" +</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tornado outbreak</li> <li>• Derecho</li> </ul> |
| <p>* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.</p> |  |  |  |  |   |





# Hazards - Watch vs. Warning

## WATCH VS WARNING

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>⚡ WATCH INDICATES A RISK OF HAZARDOUS WEATHER</p>                       | <p>⚡ WARNING MEANS EVENT IS OCCURRING, IMMINENT, OR LIKELY</p> |
| <p>⚡ IN A WATCH AREA, YOU SHOULD HAVE A PLAN IN CASE A STORM THREATENS</p> | <p>⚡ TAKE ACTION NOW TO SAVE PROPERTY AND LIVES</p>            |



# Hazards - Watches and Warning

- Be advised tornadoes and other significant weather patterns can occur without a watch or warning have been issued
- This has occurred several times in recent history—last five years
- See something report it/react to it



# Getting a Local Forecast/Weather Conditions

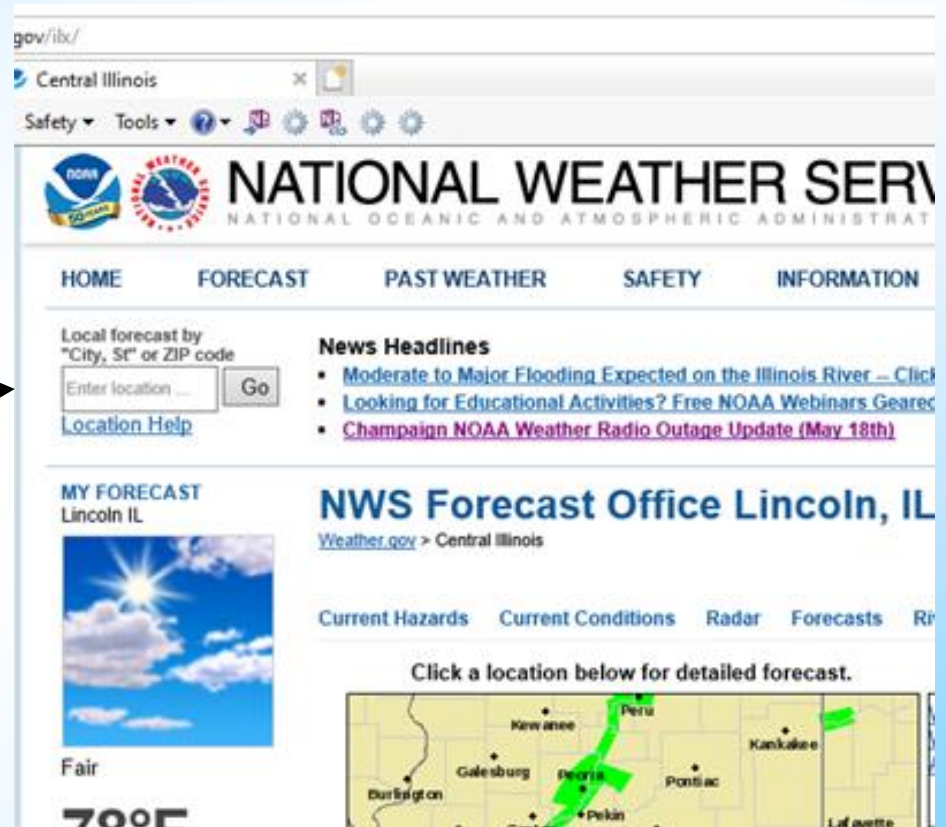
- Go to  
<https://www.weather.gov/ilx/>

The screenshot shows the National Weather Service website for the Lincoln, IL office. The page features a navigation menu with options like HOME, FORECAST, and PAST WEATHER. A local forecast for Lincoln, IL, is displayed, showing a current temperature of 78°F (26°C) and a forecast for the day with a 20% to 50% chance of T-storms. A map of the region is shown with a legend for watches, warnings, and advisories, including Flood Warning and Hazardous Weather Outlook. The page also includes news headlines and a search bar.



# Getting a Local Forecast/Weather Conditions

- Type in city, state, or zip code in top left box “Local forecast” →



The screenshot shows the National Weather Service website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'FORECAST', 'PAST WEATHER', 'SAFETY', and 'INFORMATION'. Below this is a search box labeled 'Local forecast by "City, ST" or ZIP code' with a 'Go' button and a 'Location Help' link. To the right of the search box is a 'News Headlines' section with three links: 'Moderate to Major Flooding Expected on the Illinois River -- Click', 'Looking for Educational Activities? Free NOAA Webinars Geared', and 'Champaign NOAA Weather Radio Outage Update (May 18th)'. Below the search box is a 'MY FORECAST' section for 'Lincoln IL' showing a weather icon of a sun and clouds, the word 'Fair', and a temperature of '70°F'. To the right of the forecast is a section for 'NWS Forecast Office Lincoln, IL' with a link to 'Weather.gov > Central Illinois'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Current Hazards', 'Current Conditions', 'Radar', 'Forecasts', and 'R'. At the bottom, there's a map titled 'Click a location below for detailed forecast.' showing various locations in Central Illinois, including Kewanee, Peru, Kankakee, Galesburg, Peoria, Pontiac, Pekin, and Lafayette.



# Getting a Local Forecast/Weather Conditions

- Example zip code: “61802”
- Hazardous Weather Conditions
- Extended Forecast
- Additional Resources

The screenshot shows the NOAA National Weather Service website for Champaign, IL. The page displays the current weather conditions at the University of Illinois - Willard (KCM1) station, with a temperature of 74°F and 23°C. It also provides an extended forecast for Champaign, IL, showing weather icons for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Wednesday Night, Thursday, Thursday Night, Friday, Friday Night, and Saturday. The website includes navigation menus for Home, Forecast, Past Weather, Safety, Information, Education, News, Search, and About. There are also sections for News Headlines, Hazardous Weather Conditions, and Current conditions at the University of Illinois - Willard (KCM1).

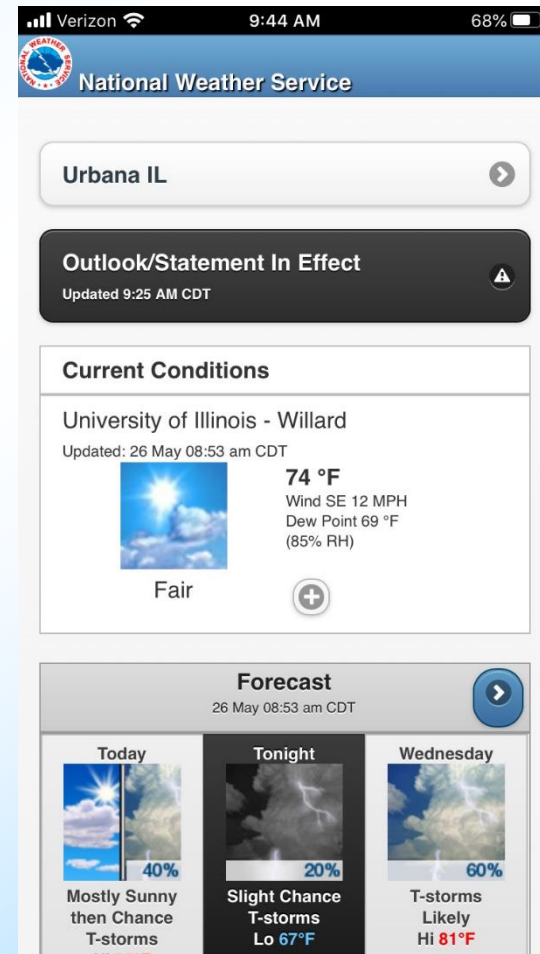


# National Weather Service (NWS) Mobile

- <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/mobile-phone>

If you have an iPhone...

- 1. Visit mobile.weather.gov using Safari on your iPhone.
- 2. Click the Send button at the bottom of the screen.
- 3. Choose “Add to Home Screen” and tap “Add.”



# Weather Considerations for Outdoor Seating & Events

- Designate shelter areas if available
  - No one is safe outside of a solid enclosed structure during any thunderstorm; tents are not suitable shelters
- Establish weather thresholds that will prompt the activation of sheltering and evacuation plans
  - Examples/suggestions:
    - Thunderstorms (lightning) within eight-mile radius
    - Heat index of xxx degrees
    - Non-thunderstorm wind gusts exceeding xx mph



# Weather Considerations for Outdoor Seating & Events (cont.)

- Designate a Weather Watcher
  - Understand any established weather-related thresholds and evacuation/sheltering time
  - Have internet access
- Relay weather information to staff and attendees ahead of potential hazardous weather
  - Examples/suggestions:
    - Severe Thunderstorm Watches or Tornado Watches
    - Prior to possible evacuation, reminding what the evacuation plan is and where storm shelters are





# Use Multiple Ways to Get Warnings

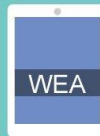
## 6 WAYS to receive a warning



NOAA Weather Radio



Local TV and Radio



Wireless Emergency Alerts  
& Weather Apps



Outdoor Sirens



Internet Sites

mobile.weather.gov



From Your Friends,  
Family and Coworkers



weather.gov



# Outdoor Warning Sirens

## Important Information About Tornado Sirens



Sirens are for OUTDOOR warning purposes and are not meant to be heard indoors.

Hearing a siren is a signal to get indoors and seek additional information.

It does NOT mean the threat has ended when the sirens stop sounding.

Sirens are activated by city or county officials, not the National Weather Service.



NWS Chicago [weather.gov/Chicago](https://weather.gov/Chicago)



Graphic created by  
NWS Kansas City, MO



# All Hazards Weather Radio

- Make sure the batteries are fresh
- Program properly to receive the warnings you need
- Try to observe the weekly test
- Be familiar with your area, especially true when travelling, so you know if you are in the path of a storm
- **Should have one in each facility**
- *NOTE: Champaign Weather Radio is currently out of service at this time. NWS has identified a new tower location and are waiting for lease agreements to be finalized by NOAA. Once a lease agreement is in place, we will install the transmitter and antenna, and begin system testing to ensure the associated signal is performing at an optimal level.*



# Message Systems

- Citizens can register cell phones and e-mail addresses to receive emergency messages
  - Register an alternate e-mail address if possible
- A similar system for the community at large is available
  - <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1157>



# Apps for Disasters

Some are Free others cost a fee

Free:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—will do alerts
- American Red Cross—Tornado, First Aid
- Chambana WX (local weather)

Fee associated

- Radarscope--\$\$



# For More Information

- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/>
- [www.champaigncountyema.org](http://www.champaigncountyema.org)
- [www.ready.il.gov](http://www.ready.il.gov)

