

...Severe Weather Awareness Week in New England and New York...

The National Weather Service, along with all the New England states and the state of New York, have proclaimed this week as Severe Weather Awareness Week. Today we examine hazardous weather terminology in order to take proper action if and when severe weather threatens.

A severe thunderstorm watch is issued, covering a large area (several counties and possible states), and is valid for a lengthy period of time (4 to 8 hours) when conditions are favorable for the possible development of severe weather in the area. A severe thunderstorm includes damaging winds in excess of 58 miles an hour, hail of 1 inch diameter or larger, or possibly a tornado. Severe thunderstorms also contain deadly lightning and heavy rain capable of producing floods.

A severe thunderstorm warning will be issued by county for a relatively short period of time (hour or less) when severe weather is imminent or observed.

A tornado watch is issued, covering a large area (several counties and possible states), and is valid for a lengthy period of time (4 to 8 hours) when conditions are favorable for the possible development of severe weather, including tornadoes.

A tornado warning will be issued by county for a relatively short period of time (hour or less) when severe weather has been detected by doppler radar or has been observed.

When your area is under a severe weather watch, remain calm but be alert for changing weather and be prepared to take immediate action if a warning is later issued. When a severe weather warning is issued, take immediate action to protect yourself. If possible, go to a sturdy indoor structure. In a flooding situation, move to higher ground.

Despite great advances in weather detecting technology, a network of trained personnel and a host of severe weather products, each year people die from weather related causes because they did not know about the warning.

A battery operated NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio with tone alert capabilities is one of the quickest and most reliable ways to receive severe weather information.

More information on severe weather as well as forecasts and other weather information can be found at [www.weather.gov/burlington](http://www.weather.gov/burlington). Also, visit our NWS Burlington Facebook and Twitter sites for more information.