

Welcome to Day One of Severe Weather Awareness Week!

Douglas County Emergency Management, Topeka National Weather Service, and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management have proclaimed March 14-18, 2016 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Douglas County and Kansas.

According to the Storm Prediction Center, the US experienced 1,153 tornadoes in 2015. Kansas experienced 126 of those tornadoes including 1 in Douglas County (Eudora). Now is the time to get prepared. It only takes 1 storm to impact your day or change your life.

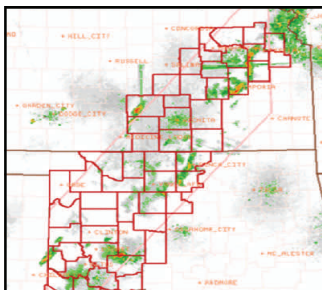
Over the next several days we will examine different severe weather threats and challenge you and your family to get prepared for the upcoming severe weather season. Post questions or tips on how you are prepared on our Facebook page or through Twitter.

WATCHES

WATCHES are issued when a specific hazard is possible during a specific time range.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH:

Issued when the National Weather Service believes thunderstorms are likely to develop, become severe and produce large hail and/or damaging winds.

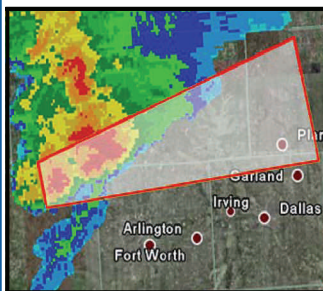


TORNADO WATCH: Issued when the National Weather Service believes thunderstorms are likely to develop, become severe and produce tornadoes and/or large hail and damaging winds.

ACTIONS TO TAKE: Identify where you will be during the watch time frame. Next, determine where you will take cover if a warning is issued. This may be on the road, at home, at work, at school, etc. Stay alert to changing weather conditions.

WARNINGS

WARNINGS are issued when a specific hazard is or is believed to be occurring.



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING: Issued when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by weather radar or a spotter reports at least 58 mph winds or 1 inch hail.

TORNADO WARNING: Issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.



ACTIONS TO TAKE: Take action immediately! Move to the lowest level of the building to an interior room with no windows. Stay in that room until the thunderstorm has passed.

It's Up to YOU!!

After you have received the warning, YOU must make the decision to seek shelter before the storm arrives. It could be the most important decision you will ever make.

