



National Weather Service Forecast Office - Indianapolis, IN

Hazardous Weather Product Definitions



Convective Weather Hazard Products

Severe Thunderstorm Watch	Conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms (hail $\geq 1''$, wind ≥ 58 mph)
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	A severe thunderstorm (hail $\geq 1''$, wind ≥ 58 mph) is imminent or occurring
Tornado Watch	Conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms producing tornadoes
Tornado Warning	A tornado is imminent or occurring

 *Indiana Weather History – On Palm Sunday, April 11, 1965, 10 tornadoes struck the state, killing 137 people, injuring nearly 1800, and causing \$145,000,000 in damage (1965 dollars). Twelve hundred homes and 1,000 farm buildings were damaged or destroyed statewide. Nationwide, the death toll stood at 258, with over 3000 injuries.*

Winter Weather Hazard Products

Winter Storm Watch	The potential will exist for one of more of the following: near blizzard conditions, heavy snow, damaging accumulations of freezing rain, or heavy sleet
Winter Storm Warning	Heavy snow, or a combination of snow and freezing rain or sleet is expected
Blizzard Watch	The potential will exist for blizzard conditions: heavy snow with sustained winds or frequent gusts greater than 35 mph, reducing visibility to one quarter mile or less
Blizzard Warning	Blizzard conditions are expected
Ice Storm Warning	Freezing rain accumulations of $\frac{1}{4}''$ or more are expected
Winter Weather Advisory	Winter weather conditions are expected which will be hazardous, but not severe enough to warrant a warning. These include blowing snow, snowfall (typically 2-4'' or 3-5''), or sleet accumulations of 2 inches or less
Freezing Rain Advisory	Freezing rain is expected, accumulating to less than $\frac{1}{4}''$

 *Indiana Weather History – From January 25-27, 1978, the “Blizzard of ‘78” dumped up to three feet of snow on the state, which was accompanied by bitter cold and winds gusting to 50 mph or more, crippling transportation and leaving many Hoosiers trapped for days. Seventy people died as a result of the storm.*

Hydrologic Hazard Products

Flood Watch	Conditions will be favorable for the development of river and/or county-wide flooding
Flood Warning	River and/or county-wide flooding is occurring or imminent
Flash Flood Watch	Conditions will be favorable for flash flooding (flooding in which waters rise rapidly to inundation within minutes or a few hours)
Flash Flood Warning	Flash flooding is occurring or imminent
Flood Advisory	Minor flooding of urban areas, creeks, streams, and/or other low-lying areas is occurring or imminent

 *Indiana Weather History – Heavy rain of six to nearly 11 inches on the morning of June 7, 2008 resulted in near-record to record flooding over much of the southern half of the state, with some areas exceeding the March 1913 flood. Four people were killed, and flood waters directly affected over 25,000 people, with damage exceeding one billion dollars. Rapidly rising creeks, streams, and rivers flooded major interstates, isolated cities and towns, and damaged critical structures such as flood control dams and hospitals.*

Extreme Temperature and Non-Precipitation Hazard Products

Freeze Watch	Conditions will be favorable for temperatures to fall to 32 degrees or below during the normal growing season
Freeze Warning	Temperatures are expected to fall to freezing or below during the normal growing season
Wind Chill Advisory	Wind chill readings of -15 to -24 degrees are expected
Wind Chill Warning	Wind chill readings of -25 or below are expected
Heat Advisory	Heat index readings of 105 to 109 degrees are expected
Excessive Heat Warning	Heat index readings of 110 degrees or above are expected
Wind Advisory	Sustained winds of 30 mph or greater with gusts to 45 mph are expected
High Wind Watch	Conditions will be favorable for high winds (sustained 40 mph or more with gusts to 58 mph or more)
High Wind Warning	High winds are expected
Dense Fog Advisory	Widespread fog reducing visibilities to ¼ mile or less is expected

 *Indiana Weather History – The all-time state record low was set on January 19, 1994, when the temperature fell to -36 degrees at New Whiteland. The Indianapolis city record was also set that day, at -27 degrees. Snow and ice from a major winter storm just days prior helped the temperatures plunge.*