

TORNADO AND SEVERE STORM PREPAREDNESS

Tornado Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in and close to the watch area. These watches are issued for large areas by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, and are usually valid for 4 to 6 hours up to 12 hours.

Tornado Warning - Strong rotation in a thunderstorm is indicated by Doppler radar, satellite indication or a tornado is sighted by skywarn or a weather spotter. These warnings are issued on a county by county basis by the local Weather Forecast office.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. These watches are issued for large areas by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, and are usually valid for 4 to 6 hours up to 12 hours.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - A severe thunderstorm is indicated by Doppler radar or sighted by skywarn spotters. A severe thunderstorm contains large damaging hail, 3/4 inch diameter or larger, and/or damaging winds of around 60 mph or greater. These warnings are issued on a county by county basis by the local Weather Forecast Office.

Flood Watch - Conditions are favorable for flash flooding in and close to the watch area. These watches are issued by the Weather Forecast Office in Chicago/Romeoville and are usually for the first 12 to 24 hours of a forecast.

Flash Flood Warning - Flash flooding is occurring, imminent or highly likely. A flash flood is a flood that occurs within 6 hours of excessive rainfall and that poses a threat to life and/or property. Ice jams and dam failures can also cause flash floods. These warnings are issued on a county by county basis by the local Weather Forecast Office and are generally in effect for up to 6 hours.

Flood Warning - General flooding of streets, low-lying areas, urban storm drains, creeks and small streams is occurring, imminent, or highly likely. Flood warnings are issued for flooding that occurs more than 6 hours after the excessive rainfall. These warnings are issued on a county by county basis by the local Weather Forecast Office and are generally in effect for 6 to 12 hours.

Tornado Sirens will only be set off in Butler County in the event a Tornado Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service.

The Butler County Emergency Management Agency highly recommends all households purchase a NOAA weather radio.