

CITY OF WAVERLY

March 2025

Department of Public Works

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“Serving the Community Throughout the Seasons”

Hazard Mitigation Newsletter

Tornado Safety

The National Weather Service defines a tornado as a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles.

Be Weather Ready!

- Know where to get your weather-related information.
- Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.
- Know where to go when a tornado warning is issued.

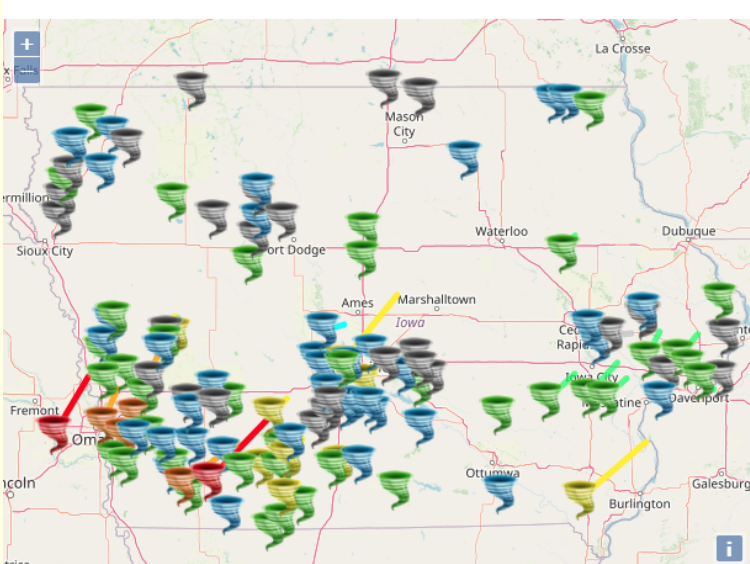
2024 Tornado Stats

There were 125 confirmed tornadoes in Iowa in 2024. Scan the QR Code to the right or visit <https://www.weather.gov/dmx/iators2024> to read the National Weather Service's 2024 Iowa Tornado Summary.



Total Iowa Tornadoes: 125

EF0 (40) EF1 (39) EF2 (10) EF3 (4) EF4 (2) EF5 (0) EFU*(30)



Tornado Watch: Be Prepared!

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies in your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Tornado Warning: Take Action!

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property.

At Your House: Go to your basement, safe room, or an interior room away from windows.

At Work or School: Follow your tornado drill and proceed to your tornado shelter quickly and calmly. Stay away from windows and do not go into large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, or auditoriums.

Outside: Seek shelter inside a sturdy building immediately. Mobile homes, sheds and storage facilities are not safe.

In a Vehicle: Being in a vehicle during a tornado is not safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to a safe shelter, either get down in your car and cover your head or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine.

Source: National Weather Service

Severe Thunderstorm Safety

The National Weather Service defines severe thunderstorms as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. Hail of this size can damage property such as plants, roofs, and vehicles. Wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees. Thunderstorms can also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning; heavy rain can cause flash flooding.

Be Prepared!

- Know where to get your weather-related information. Have a weather radio, or sign-up for text alerts.
- Know the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a severe thunderstorm warning.
- Know where you'll go when a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Be Prepared!

Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Take Action!

Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Take shelter in a substantial building.

At Your House: Go to your basement, safe room, or an interior room away from windows.

At Work or School: Stay away from windows and do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, or auditoriums.

Outside: Go inside a sturdy building immediately if severe thunderstorms are approaching. Sheds and storage facilities are not safe. Taking shelter under a tree can be deadly, as the tree may fall on you. Standing under a tree also puts you at greater risk of getting struck by lightning.

In a Vehicle: Being in a vehicle during severe thunderstorms is safer than being outside; however, drive to the closest secure shelter if there is sufficient time. *Source: National Weather Service*

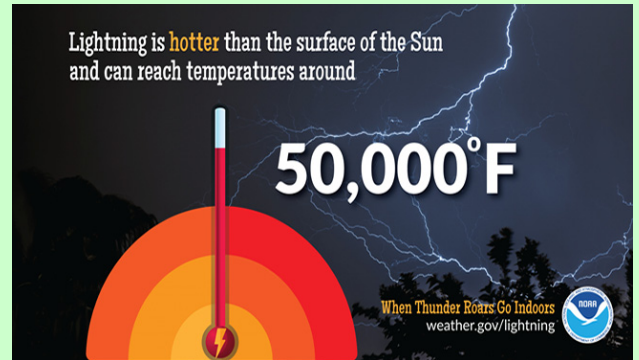
Thunder & Lightning – Very, Very Frightening

If you are outdoors:

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to a safe shelter/building or metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

If you are indoors:

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that puts you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing. Do not wash your hands, take a shower, or wash dishes.
- Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.



If you are caught outside with no safe shelter:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, etc.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never take shelter under an isolated tree.
- Immediately get out and away from bodies of water.

Derechos

A derecho is a very long lived and damaging thunderstorm. A storm is classified as a derecho if wind damage swath extends more than 240 miles and has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour or greater along most of the length of the storm's path. As with all severe weather – be aware, especially if you plan on being well-removed from sturdy shelter. Stay connected via television, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, or social media. Derechos rarely occur without warning, although warning lead times may be comparatively limited during the early stages of storm development. For more information on derechos visit <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/AbtDerechos/derechofacts.htm#whatsnew>.

Source: National Weather Service

You Are The Help Until Help Arrives

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers many programs to assist communities to prepare for emergency or disaster situations. One of these programs is “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” (*Until Help Arrives*).

Until Help Arrives provides tools to educate and empower the public to act in an emergency situation before professional help arrives by taking five *Until Help Arrives* key actions:

Call 9-1-1

- Don’t assume someone else has already done so.
- 911 operators are highly trained and will help you.
- Let them coach you through the life-threatening situation.

Stay Safe

- Assess the situation: Pause and use all available senses.
- Decide whether to stay and help, grab the injured and get to safety, or get yourself to safety.

Stop Bleeding

- Apply steady, firm pressure on the source of bleeding until first responders arrive.
- If you can’t control the bleeding with manual pressure, consider a tourniquet.

Position the Injured

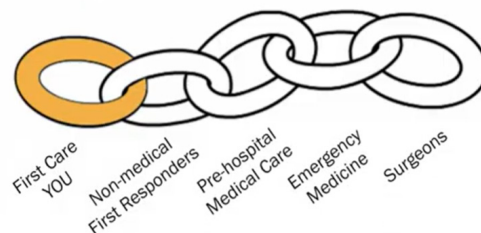
- Lay the injured on their side, legs slightly bent, with bottom hand reached outward and head resting near hand.
- Raise the chin forward with mouth pointed downward.

Provide Comfort

- Share names and ask basic questions.
- Tell them what you know happened, but do not speculate.
- Keep them warm and offer a hand to hold.

Chain of Survival

How the emergency medical system flows to keep people with life-threatening injuries alive:



Some Stats... Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans under 46 years old. 6 to 9 minutes is the national average response time for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), but it may take up to 20 minutes or more in rural areas.

The *Until Help Arrives* program teaches basic skills to help keep people alive and safe until professional help arrives. 98% of people who took the training said they are more likely to help as a result of what they learned.

Training Citizen Responders

A 30-minute self-guided training on the web shows participants why they should help and how they can do it safely. Training gives people practical guidance to become the first link in the chain of survival. Access the training and learn more about *Until Help Arrives* at www.ready.gov/until-help-arrives

Emergency Communications Plan

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if disaster strikes, so it’s important to know how you’ll reconnect with family if separated.

Step 1: Put a plan together (How will I receive emergency alerts & warnings? What is my shelter plan? What is my evacuation route? What is my family/household communication plan? Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?)

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

Step 3: Create a Family Emergency Plan using the <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form> fillable form to create a Family Emergency Communication Plan, which you can email as a PDF file once complete.

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household.



Source: www.ready.gov

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Presort
Standard
U.S. Postage
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Permit No.2

Postal Customer Carrier Route Presort

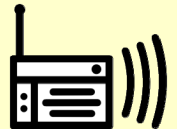


Weather Radio

The most important weather safety rule? Know when you are at risk due to hazardous weather. Your best source for this information is the National Weather Service, whose mission is to issue official weather watches, warnings, and advisories. For over 130 years, the National Weather Service has been serving and protecting the nation's citizens by monitoring the weather and providing alerts to any dangers.

The most reliable method for getting this information is via the NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts your area's official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.



NWR transmitters broadcast on one of seven VHF frequencies. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a regular AM/FM receiver. Visit https://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwr_receivers to learn more about receiver types and models that will pick up Weather Radio broadcasts. Source: www.weather.gov/nwr/

Severe Weather Awareness

Iowa's Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 24-28, 2025. This week is an annual event to remind Iowans that severe weather is part of living in our state. Understanding the risks and how to respond to them can save lives. Everyone should have a plan in place and this plan should be practiced in the event of a severe storm. Take a few minutes of your time and designate the safety "go to" locations for you and your family.

Iowa's statewide tornado drill is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 26, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. For more information on how to prepare for severe weather, go to www.weather.gov/safety.

www.waverlyia.com

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Waverly's Department of Public Works ... "Serving the Community Throughout the Seasons"