

Significant Severe Storm Potential Today

Overview

DANGEROUS SEVERE WEATHER POSSIBLE TODAY

WHAT

-Large hail, damaging winds, and a tornado threat exist across northern Illinois and northwest Indiana. Greatest tornado threat along and south of I-88.

WHEN

-This afternoon and evening. The highest risk period will be from mid-afternoon through mid-evening.

ACTION

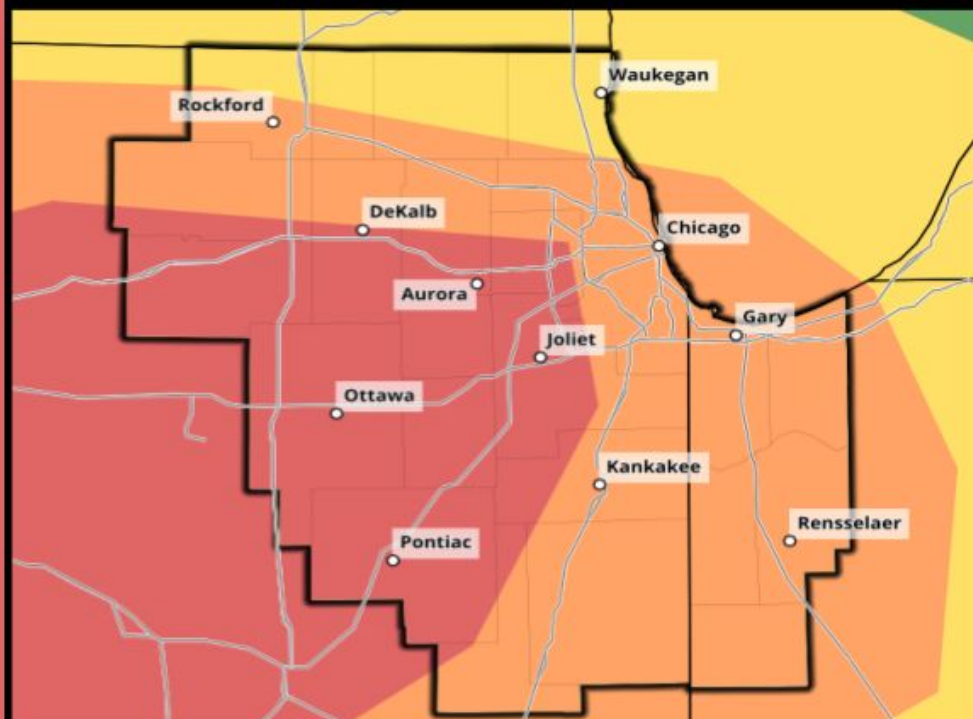
- Know where to seek shelter if a warning is issued.
- Monitor the weather for updates throughout the day.

Saturday March 28, 2020 5:00 AM CDT

SEVERE WEATHER THREAT LEVEL



STORM MOTION:
To the northeast
at 50+ mph



Weather Message of the Day:

- After scattered showers and storms through early afternoon, multiple rounds of storms will occur over the region mid-afternoon into evening.
- The severe risk today for much of the area is a threat level 3-4 out of 5, with level 4 being fairly rare (averages about once every two years here).
- Main threats are tornadoes, hail, and wind, and some of these could be on the upper end especially in the red and orange shaded areas above.
- Strong west to northwest winds overnight-Sunday with gusts to 45 mph expected, with a possibility of some higher gusts

Important Forecast Changes

No major changes have occurred from previous issuance. An additional update is possible, but attention by partners should turn to watches and warnings, Graphical NOWcasts, and other supplemental info.

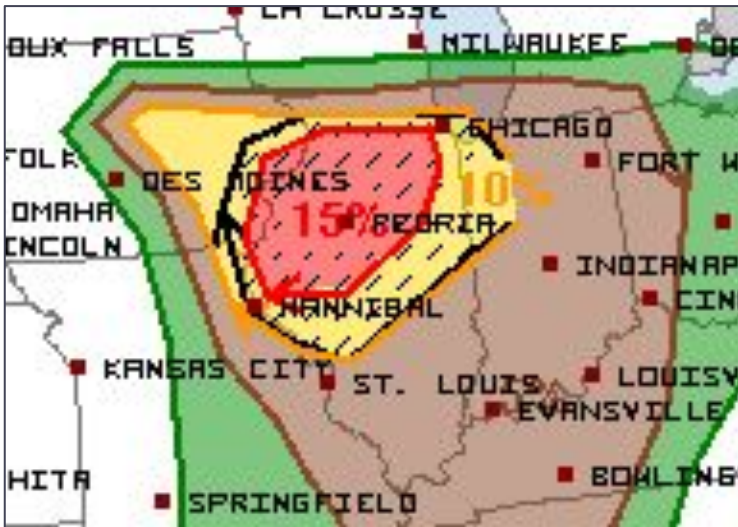
NEW



The Higher-End Severe Potential

Key Points

Tornado Outlook

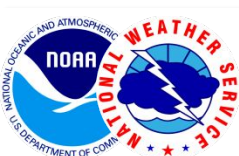


- The atmosphere supports the potential for significant tornadoes of EF2+ intensity.
- Uncertainty remains in how far northeast this significant tornado threat will extend and if it will reach into the heart of the Chicago area, but confidence is high in this threat in the red-shaded area this afternoon into mid-evening.
- Storms will be moving very quickly: towards the northeast, making it challenging and potentially adding danger for any storm spotters.

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense

* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

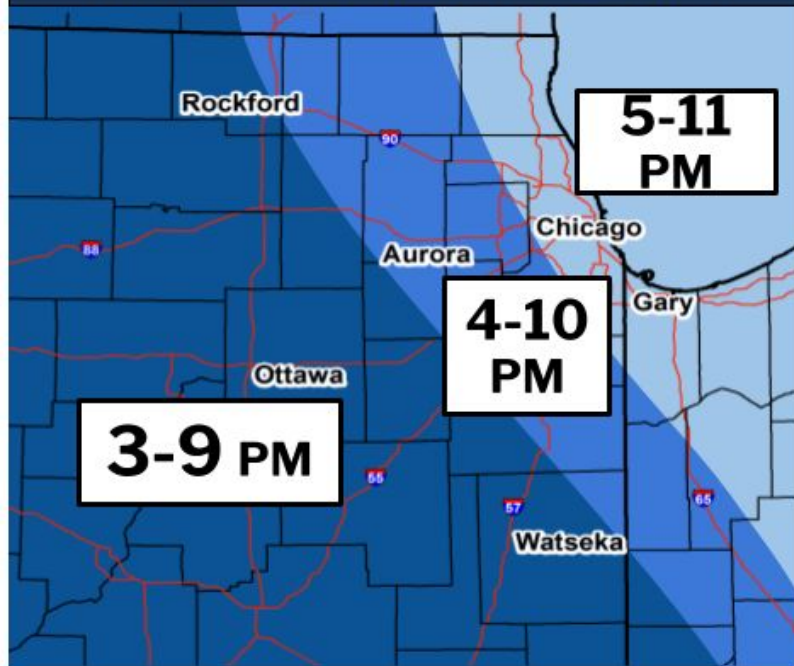


Timing

Key Points

⌚ Today's Severe Thunderstorm Threat Timing

When is the Primary Threat Time?



TIMING CHALLENGES

- Multiple waves of thunderstorms to move across the region today
- Breaks between rounds of storms

ACTION

- Monitor the weather and forecast updates through this afternoon and evening.

TIMING UPDATES

- See additional graphics issued throughout today as well as hourly forecasts at weather.gov/chicago or mobile.weather.gov



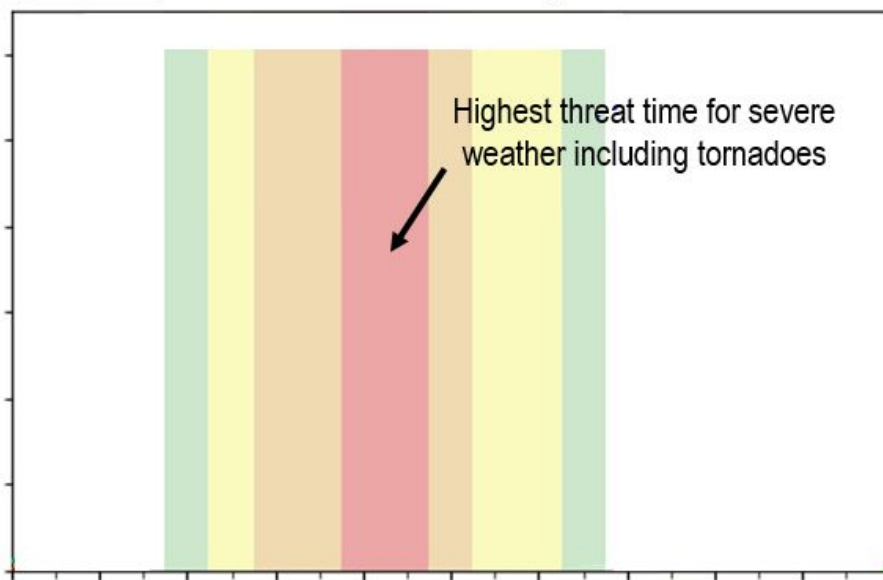
NWS Chicago

Issued: Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:00 AM CDT

Experimental Severe Weather Threat Timing for North Central Illinois



Note this experimental graphic is for north central Illinois, including Dixon, La-Salle Peru, Ottawa, Pontiac, and Morris



11 AM 1 PM 3 PM 5 PM 7 PM 9 PM 11 PM 1 AM
Background mage generated by NWS Storm Prediction Center

Strong Non-Thunderstorm Winds Overnight - Sunday

Key Points

STRONG WINDS THIS WEEKEND

This Evening

Breezy. Southwest wind gusts to 30 mph.

Late Tonight - Sunday afternoon

Windy. Southwest gusts of 45+ mph expected.

Sunday late Afternoon/Evening

Breezy. West wind gusts of 35-40 mph

Hazards

- Loose objects blown around
- Hazardous travel for high profile vehicles



Information:

- Outside of thunderstorms, breezy southwest winds this afternoon and evening will have gusts to 25-30 mph.
- Winds are expected to strengthen late tonight through early Sunday morning with gusts of 45+ mph possible through Sunday.
- Winds will ease late Sunday afternoon into the evening.



Other Resources

- [Check out our Weather Watcher webpage](#)— ideal for someone in charge of monitoring the weather ahead of and during an event!
- [Information on storm safety and storm preparedness](#)
- [Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook](#) – helps you figure out which days you need to be mindful of hazardous weather!

Tornado Preparedness Info

If the atmosphere becomes favorable for tornadoes, a **Tornado Watch** may be issued. A Tornado Watch means that any storm that forms in and around the watch area could produce a tornado and you should prepare to act if a warning is issued.

If a storm is about to produce a tornado, or if one is occurring, the National Weather Service will issue a **Tornado Warning**. If a warning is issued for your area, seek shelter immediately.

Shelter: Lowest floor, interior room of a permanent structure, preferably a designated storm shelter

NOT a shelter: A mobile home, car, highway overpass or under any bridge

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