



Severe Thunderstorms Watch or Warning

Alabama is prone to different types of severe weather. Every Alabamian should take steps to prepare in case dangerous conditions develop. Our extreme weather may range from severe thunderstorms to tornadoes.

In addition to preparing for severe weather, it is important to understand the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a severe thunderstorm warning. The two are often confused by the public, but there are easy ways to know the difference. Let's take a look at each.



DISTANCE FROM STORM

How close are you to a storm? Here's an easy way to find out! When you see lightning, start counting. When you hear thunder, stop counting. Divide that number by five to find out approximately how many miles you are from the storm.

Severe Thunderstorm WATCH

Thunderstorms may develop in or near the watch area. Take steps to prepare for severe weather.

Severe Thunderstorm WARNING

A severe thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent based on radar information or reported by storm spotters. **Take shelter now!**



Warnings will often encompass a small area, such as a city or county. If your local forecast office issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for your area, move to a safe place immediately. A warning indicates immediate danger to life and property. Do not stay in a mobile home.

It is also important to know where you are on the map. A watch or warning may cover a broad area or it may cover only a small area. Use this map to find your county in Alabama.

Get extensive information on protecting your home and family in Alabama Extension's *Emergency Handbook, Preparation and Recovery* available digitally on iBooks.

For more information on severe weather, also visit www.aces.edu/eden.

Grant Lyons, County Extension Coordinator. For more information, contact a county Extension office. Visit www.aces.edu/directory. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome! **New May 2016**, ACES 2406 © 2016 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved.

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