

The National Weather Service (NWS) North Platte, Nebraska has declared March 23rd through March 27th as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Nebraska. Each day during the preparedness week will feature information about a different severe weather related topic.

Know the Difference Between a Watch and a Warning

It's vital to your safety to know the difference between a watch and a warning. During severe weather season, watches and warnings may be issued for severe storms, tornadoes and flash floods.

Watch - Get Ready! A Watch is issued when a specific weather hazard is possible. For example, if the weather conditions are such that tornadoes might form, a watch will be issued. Tornadoes are not yet occurring when a watch is issued. This gives you time to get prepared. If you know what time of day storms are forecast to occur, you can plan where you will need to shelter should a tornado occur. You can also make plans for how to get yourself and your family, including pets, to that shelter if necessary. The Watch also gives you a chance to test your communications plan and alert family and friends to the threat of dangerous weather.

Warning - Take Action! A Warning is issued when a specific weather hazard is currently occurring or will be occurring very soon. If a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued you should get inside a building immediately and stay away from windows and electrical appliances with cords. If a Tornado Warning is issued you should go to the lowest level of a sturdy building to an interior room with no windows.

Visit www.weather.gov/om/severeweather for more information.