



## National Weather Service Aberdeen, South Dakota



April 2015

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## Skywarn Spotter Training 2015

Here are the remaining scheduled Skywarn Talks for 2015.

### April

20: 7pm CDT: Grant County — Milbank Firehall

21: 7pm CDT: Day County—Community room of Day County Court-  
house in Webster

22: 1pm MDT: Dewey County—Eagle Butte Bingo Hall

23: 6pm CDT: Brown County – Basement of county courthouse in  
Aberdeen

27: 7pm CDT: Marshall County—Britton Firehall

There are no requirements needed to take class, other than a general interest in severe weather and the willingness to pass your weather report onto the authorities. Classes are still being scheduled, so please check the following page for any additions to this list.

<http://www.weather.gov/abr/skywarnschedule>

If you have any questions or for more information, you can contact James Scarlett, Meteorologist in Charge



## Severe Weather Awareness Week 2015

April 13-17 - Minnesota

April 20-24 – South Dakota

Severe Weather Weeks are a time to turn one's attention from the cold and snow of winter, to the heat and severe weather experienced during the spring and summer. Now is the time to review severe weather plans and see if any changes need to be made. For example, if your family gets separated during an emergency or disaster, has a "check in" point of contact been established, preferably out of state?

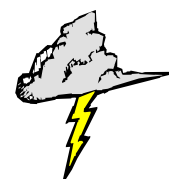
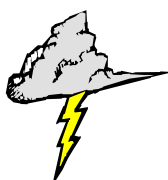
NOAA's National Weather Service, in partnership with state and local emergency management agencies, will hold drills during the awareness weeks. For Minnesota, a practice tornado watch will be issued for the entire state at 1pm CDT on Thursday April 16. A test tornado warning will be issued at 1:45, and again at 6:55pm that evening for participating counties. You can see more information about Minnesota's Severe Weather Awareness Week at the following link:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>

For South Dakota, the test tornado watch will be issued on Wednesday April 22 at 10 am CDT/9 am MDT. The test tornado warning will be issued at 10:15 am CDT/9:15 am MDT. You can see more information about South Dakota's Severe Weather Awareness Week at the following link:

[http://dps.sd.gov/emergency\\_services/emergency\\_management/documents/2015\\_Severe\\_Weather\\_Guide.pdf](http://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/emergency_management/documents/2015_Severe_Weather_Guide.pdf)

It is usually during these test warnings that some towns will test their tornado sirens with schools and businesses practicing their tornado drill procedures. This is also a great opportunity to review emergency plans and procedures, and conduct emergency drills at home.

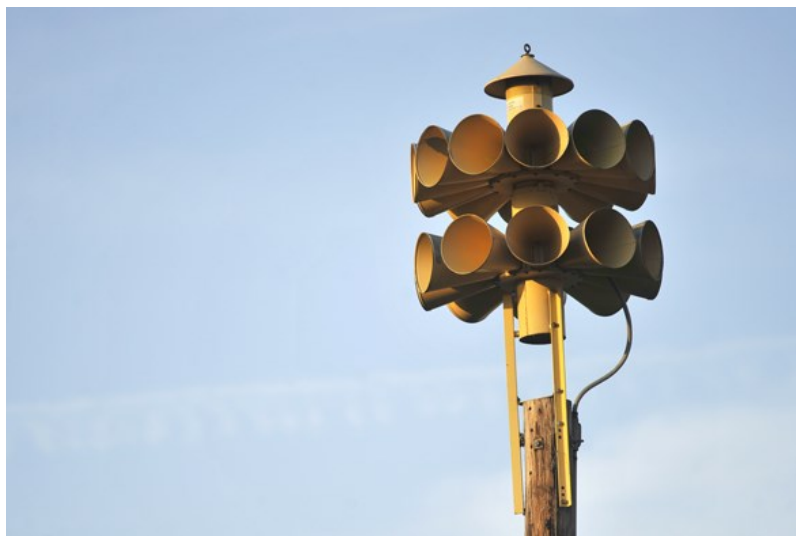


## Are All Severe Weather Watches the Same?

A *Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS)* watch is issued when the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) feels that there is an enhanced risk of very severe and life-threatening weather, usually in the form of a major tornado outbreak, or a long-lived, extreme derecho. In the case of tornadoes, SPC has a high confidence that multiple strong (EF2-EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale) or violent tornadoes (EF4-EF5 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale) will occur in the watch area. PDS watches are rare, typically less than 3% of all watches issued during the convective season. On average, 1000 watches are issued across the country per year. The average number of PDS watches issued per year is 24. No area has averaged more than 2.5 PDS watches per year.

All tornadoes are potentially dangerous, and most EF2-EF5 tornado events still occur in regular Tornado Watches. The lack of PDS wording should in no way be interpreted as downplaying the threat to life and property. However, when the PDS wording is included in the wording, the threat is to be considered as substantially higher.

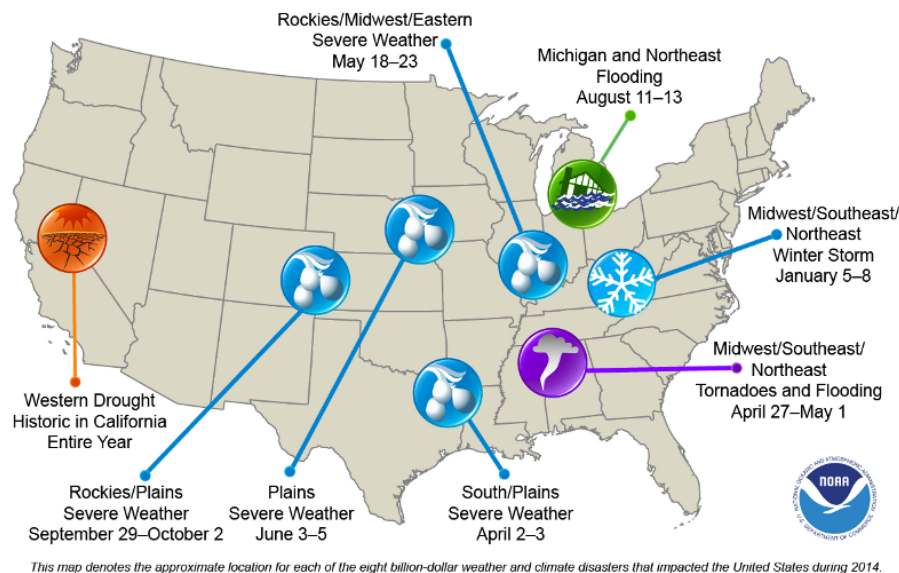
If you happen to hear of a PDS watch being issued for your area some time this warm season, your awareness of the weather should be very high. Be sure to monitor your local media or NOAA weather radio to stay abreast of the possible violent weather conditions.



## Are You Weather Ready?



### U.S. 2014 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



*This map denotes the approximate location for each of the eight billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States during 2014.*

In 2014, there were eight weather and climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each across the United States. Overall, these events killed numerous people and had significant economic effects on the areas impacted.

Yet, being prepared for severe weather doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. A few simple steps, such as having a disaster supplies kit, obtaining a NOAA Weather Radio and creating a Family Emergency Plan could help save your life.

Additionally, severe weather poses unique hazards for workers and employers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides resources for workplace preparedness for and response to severe weather emergencies, including tornadoes. OSHA also provides information for workers involved in response and recovery operations for severe weather events. OSHA and NOAA encourage workers and employers to be aware of weather forecasts so that they can be better prepared.

When it comes to severe weather, we ask that you know your risk, take action and be an example in your community. Be a Force of Nature and help the National Weather Service build a Weather-Ready Nation, one that is prepared for severe weather whenever and wherever it strikes.

For further information, check out the following site:  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation>

## New Storm Prediction Center Risk Categories

The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center has changed its Day 1, Day 2 and Day 3 categorical severe weather outlook products. Previously, there were 4 categories: See Text, Slight, Moderate and High. However, based on research and feedback from the public, the categories will now be broken into 5 sections: Marginal, Slight, Enhanced, Moderate and High. Check out the graphics below for a better idea of what these changes look like and what the different categories mean.

### Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
<b>No severe* thunderstorms expected</b>	<b>Isolated severe thunderstorms possible</b>	<b>Scattered severe storms possible</b>	<b>Numerous severe storms possible</b>	<b>Widespread severe storms likely</b>	<b>Widespread severe storms expected</b>
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
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds to 40 mph</li> <li>• Small hail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds 40-60 mph</li> <li>• Hail up to 1"</li> <li>• Low tornado risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two tornadoes</li> <li>• Reports of strong winds/wind damage</li> <li>• Hail ~1", isolated 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few tornadoes</li> <li>• Several reports of wind damage</li> <li>• Damaging hail, 1 - 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong tornadoes</li> <li>• Widespread wind damage</li> <li>• Destructive hail, 2" +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tornado outbreak</li> <li>• Derecho</li> </ul>

\* 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.

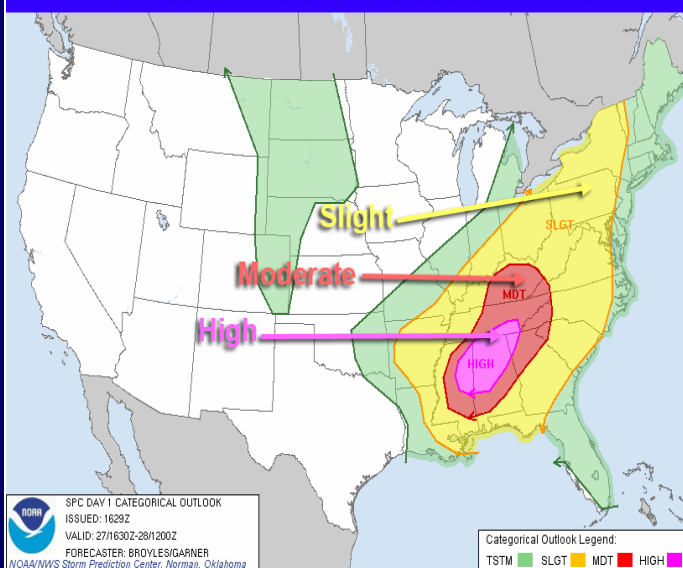


National Weather Service

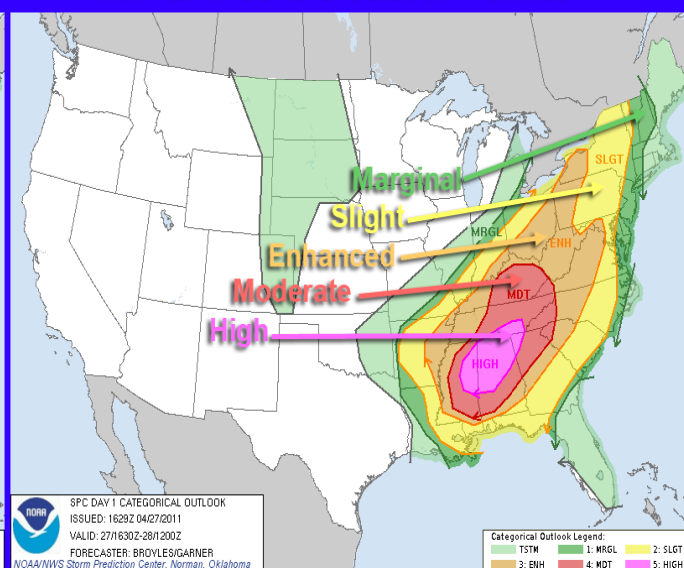
[www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)



#### Previous SPC Severe Outlook Format



#### New SPC Severe Outlook Format



NOAA SPC DAY 1 CATEGORICAL OUTLOOK  
ISSUED: 1629Z  
VALID: 271630Z-281200Z  
FORECASTER: BROVLES/GARNER  
NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Oklahoma

Categorical Outlook Legend:  
TSTM SLGT MDT HIGH

NOAA SPC DAY 1 CATEGORICAL OUTLOOK  
ISSUED: 1629Z 04/27/2011  
VALID: 271630Z-281200Z  
FORECASTER: BROVLES/GARNER  
NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Oklahoma

Categorical Outlook Legend:  
TSTM MRGL SLGT ENH MDT HIGH

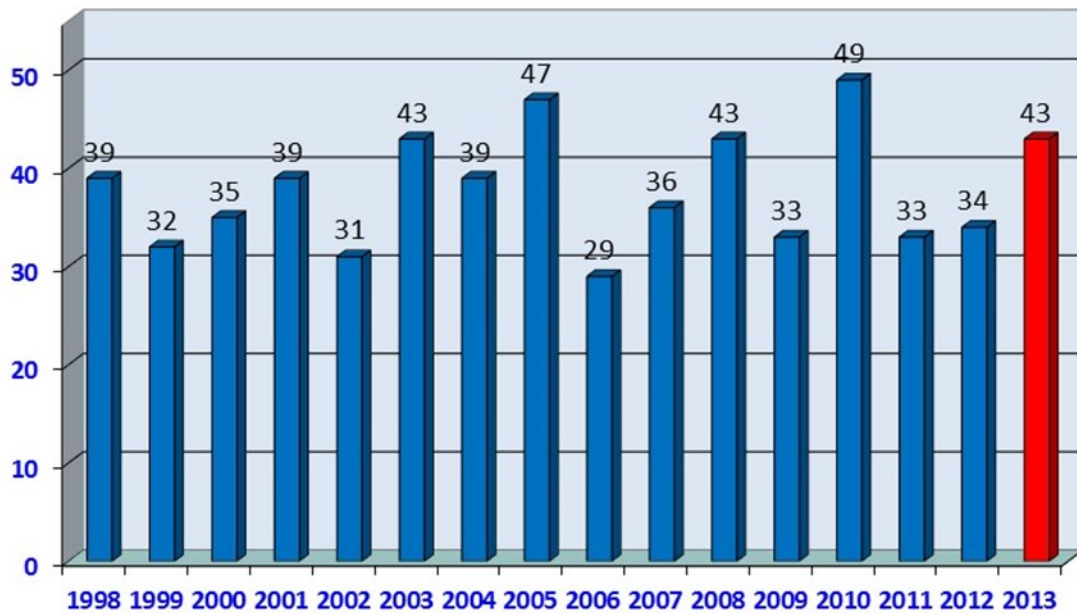


## The Effect of Heat on Cars

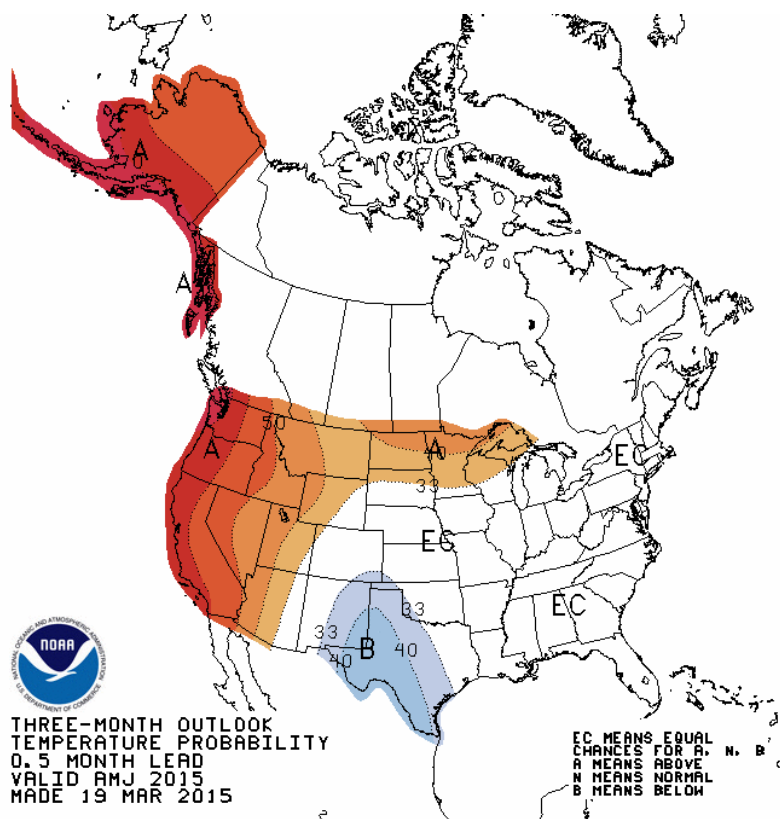
Heat remains one of the leading weather related killers in the United States. One contributor is that each year, dozens of children and untold number of pets left in parked vehicles die from hyperthermia – a condition that occurs when the body absorbs more heat than it can handle. Hyperthermia can even happen on relatively mild days. Although it may seem like a solution, leaving the windows slightly open does not significantly decrease the heating rate of the car. Always play it safe and make sure you beat the heat this summer!



**U.S. Heatstroke Deaths  
(Children in Vehicles)**

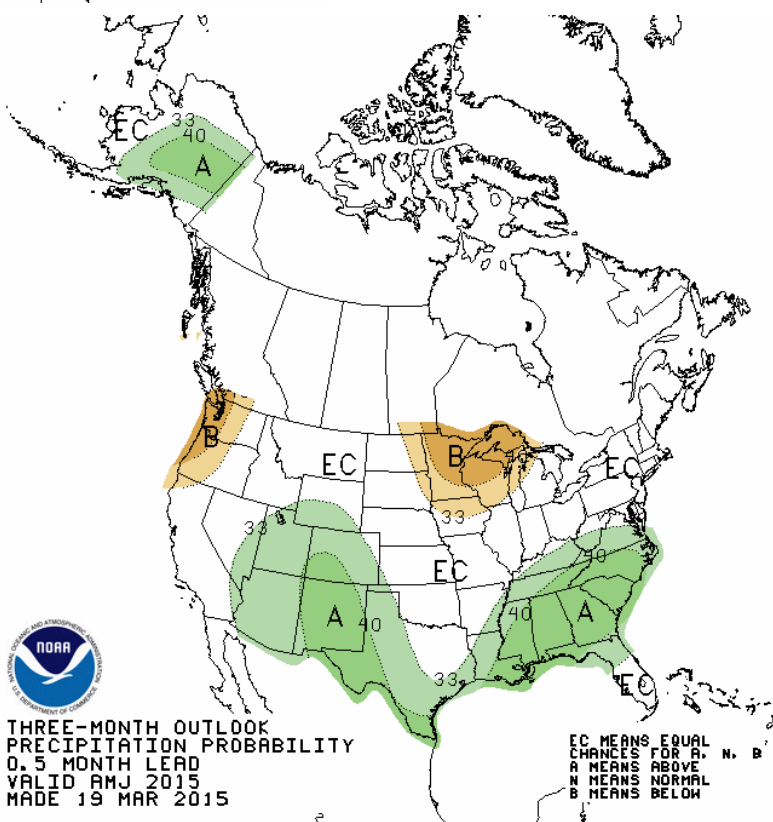


### Three Month Outlooks—April through June



Temperature Outlook for April through June

Precipitation Outlook for April through June



# Heat Index Chart

Temperature (°F)

Relative Humidity (%)	Temperature (°F)															
	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

**Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity**

■ Caution   
 ■ Extreme Caution   
 ■ Danger   
 ■ Extreme Danger

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Spring: the music of  
open windows.

~ Terri Gillemets

[www.weather.gov/aberndeen](http://www.weather.gov/aberndeen)