

Alert Selection: Yellow-highlighted alerts are required and **cannot be opted out of**. Gray-highlighted alerts are recommended to opt out of due to the high volume of notifications during storms. **All other alerts are optional** and can be selected or declined at your discretion.

WEATHER ALERTS REFERENCE SHEET

National Weather Service — Alert Levels & Descriptions

ALERT LEVEL HIERARCHY

ADVISORY	WATCH	WARNING
Least Urgent Be Aware	Moderate Threat Be Prepared	Most Urgent / Take Action Act Immediately

WEATHER ALERT CATEGORIES

☔ Wind Alerts

- High Wind Advisory — Strong winds expected; may cause minor travel or outdoor impacts.
- High Wind Warning — Dangerous winds likely; risk to structures, trees, and travel.
- High Wind Watch — Conditions favorable for hazardous high winds.
- Wind Advisory — Noticeable winds that may cause inconvenience.
- Wind Warning — Severe winds posing safety hazards.
- Wind Watch — Potential for significant wind events.

☔ Flood Alerts

- Areal Flood Advisory — Minor flooding in widespread areas.
- Areal Flood Warning — Significant flooding occurring or imminent.
- Areal Flood Watch — Conditions favorable for areal flooding.
- Flash Flood Advisory — Rapid flooding possible in localized areas.
- Flash Flood Warning — Life-threatening rapid flooding occurring or imminent.
- Flash Flood Watch — Potential for sudden, dangerous flooding.
- Flood Advisory — Minor flooding along rivers or low-lying areas.
- Flood Warning — Major flooding expected or occurring.
- Flood Watch — Conditions favorable for flooding.

❄ Winter & Snow Alerts

- Blizzard Advisory — Blizzard conditions possible with reduced visibility.
- Blizzard Warning — Severe blizzard conditions expected.
- Blizzard Watch — Potential for blizzard conditions.

- Freezing Fog Advisory — Fog causing ice accumulation on surfaces.
- Freezing Fog Warning — Dangerous icy fog conditions.
- Freezing Fog Watch — Conditions may produce freezing fog.
- Freezing Rain Advisory — Light freezing rain creating slick surfaces.
- Freezing Rain Warning — Significant ice accumulation expected.
- Freezing Rain Watch — Potential for impactful freezing rain.
- Heavy Snow Advisory — Noticeable snowfall affecting travel.
- Heavy Snow Warning — Major snowfall likely.
- Heavy Snow Watch — Conditions favorable for heavy snow.
- Ice Storm Advisory — Light icing possible.
- Ice Storm Warning — Severe ice accumulation expected.
- Ice Storm Watch — Potential for damaging ice storm.
- Sleet Advisory — Sleet may cause slick travel.
- Sleet Warning — Significant sleet accumulation expected.
- Sleet Watch — Conditions may produce sleet.
- Snow Advisory — Light to moderate snow expected.
- Snow Warning — Heavy or hazardous snow likely.
- Snow Watch — Potential for significant snowfall.
- Winter Storm Advisory — Mixed winter weather causing travel issues.
- Winter Storm Warning — Severe winter conditions expected.
- Winter Storm Watch — Potential for major winter storm.

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- Winter Weather Advisory — General winter hazards (snow, sleet, freezing rain).
- Winter Weather Warning — Significant winter hazards imminent.
- Winter Weather Watch — Conditions favorable for hazardous winter weather.
- Cold Weather Advisory — Unusually cold temperatures expected.

☞ Visibility Alerts

- Dense Fog Advisory — Fog reducing visibility significantly.
- Dense Fog Warning — Extremely low visibility creating dangerous travel.
- Dense Fog Watch — Conditions may produce dense fog.
- Dense Smoke Advisory — Smoke reducing visibility and air quality.
- Dense Smoke Warning — Dangerous smoke conditions.
- Dense Smoke Watch — Potential for heavy smoke.

🧊🔥 Temperature Extremes

- Extreme Cold Warning — Life-threatening cold temperatures expected.
- Extreme Cold Watch — Potential for dangerously cold conditions.
- Extreme Heat Warning — Life-threatening heat expected.
- Extreme Heat Watch — Potential for dangerous heat.
- Freeze Advisory — Temperatures may damage sensitive vegetation.
- Freeze Warning — Hard freeze likely; significant plant damage expected.

- Freeze Watch — Conditions favorable for freezing temperatures.
- Frost Advisory — Light frost possible.
- Frost Warning — Widespread frost expected.
- Frost Watch — Conditions may produce frost.
- Heat Advisory — Hot conditions posing health risks.
- Heat Warning — Extreme heat likely.
- Heat Watch — Potential for severe heat.

🔥 Fire & Air Quality Alerts

- Fire Weather Watch — Conditions may support wildfire spread.
- Red Flag Warning — Critical fire weather conditions occurring or imminent.

⚡ Severe Storm Alerts

- Hail Alert — Hail possible or occurring.
- Lightning Alert — Frequent lightning expected.
- Severe Thunderstorm Advisory — Strong storms possible with minor hazards.
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning — Dangerous storms with hail/wind occurring or imminent.
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch — Conditions favorable for severe storms.

⚡ Tornado Alerts

- Tornado Advisory — Tornado-related conditions possible; stay aware.
- Tornado Warning — Tornado occurring or imminent; take shelter immediately.
- Tornado Watch — Conditions favorable for tornado development.

EMERGENCY ACTION QUICK REFERENCE

SITUATION	INDOOR ACTION	OUTDOOR ACTION
Tornado Warning	Go to lowest floor, interior room, away from windows.	Abandon vehicle; lie flat in low ground away from trees.
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Stay indoors, away from windows and corded electronics.	Seek sturdy shelter immediately; avoid trees and water.
Flash Flood Warning	Move to upper floors; do not wade into floodwater.	Move to high ground; never drive through flooded roads.
Excessive Heat Warning	Stay in air-conditioned areas; check on elderly neighbors.	Limit exertion; hydrate frequently; seek shade or cooling center.
Winter Storm Warning	Stay home if possible; prepare emergency kit.	Dress in layers; keep dry; limit exposure time.
Blizzard Warning	Do not travel; conserve heat; monitor power.	If stranded: stay with vehicle; run engine 10 min/hour for heat.

KEY CONTACTS

NWS Topeka, KS: weather.gov/top

NOAA Weather Radio: All Hazards — Continuous broadcast

Anderson County Emergency Management: 785-448-6797 or 785-822-8584