

WFO Milwaukee/Sullivan – Thresholds for Warnings & Advisories

| CONVECTIVE AND HYDRO EVENTS | THRESHOLDS |
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| SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING - SVR | Winds = > 58 mph (or implied by damage), and/or Hail= >1 Inch |
| TORNADO WARNING - TOR | Tornado sighted by spotters or imminent based on radar |
| FLASH FLOOD WARNING - FFW | Flooding that produces life/property threat within 0-6 hrs of causative event |
| FLOOD WARNING - FFW | Flooding that produces life/property threat within 6-12 hrs of causative event |
| FLOOD WARNING (MAINSTEM RIVER) - FLW | Flooding that produces life/property threat when river level reaches or exceeds local flood stage. |
| URBAN/SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY- FLS | Inconvenience flooding in 0 - 24 Hrs |
| COLD-SEASON EVENTS | THRESHOLDS |
| WINTER STORM WARNING – WSW <i>*Forecaster discretion according to the ‘apple plan’ should be used for events that may not officially reach warning criteria, but have a significant impact on society.</i> | One or more of the following weather events <= 12 hours (unless otherwise stated): - more than 6” of snow (or 8” <= 24 hrs) - freezing rain (< ¼ inch and while accompanied by another event) - sleet accumulations of 2 inches or more - intermittent blowing snow reducing visibilities to <½ mile & winds 25-34 mph, or closed roads - forecaster discretion example: <= 6” of snow with sustained winds/frequent gusts of 25-34 mph |
| BLIZZARD WARNING – WSW | Sustained winds or frequent gusts = > 35 mph and falling/blowing snow with vsbys near ¼ mile or less for 3 hr or more |
| LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING – WSW | > 6” of heavy lake effect snow showers or snow squalls within 12 hrs, or = > 8” within 24 hrs |
| ICE STORM WARNING – WSW | Ice accumulations = > ¼ inch within 12 hours |
| WIND CHILL WARNING – WSW | Wind chills 35 below or colder with winds at least 4 mph for 3 hr or more |
| WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY – WSW | One or more of the following weather events in 12 hours or less: - 3 - 6” of snow - freezing rain (< ¼ inch and while accompanied by another event) - sleet accumulations of < 2 inches - intermittent blowing snow reducing visibilities to <½ mile & winds < 25 mph |
| LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY - WSW | 3 - 6” of lake effect snow showers or snow squalls in 12 hours or less |
| FREEZING RAIN ADVISORY - WSW | Less than ¼ inch of ice in 12 hours or less |
| WIND CHILL ADVISORY - WSW | Wind chills 20 below to 34 below with winds at least 4 mph for 3 hr or more |
| NON-PCPN EVENTS | THRESHOLDS |
| HIGH WIND WARNING - NPW | Sustained winds 40 mph or more for 1 hr or more, or any gust 58 mph or more |
| EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING - NPW | HI >= 105 during the day and HI = > 75 at night for a 48-hr period, or advisory conditions (HI 100 or higher) for 4 consecutive days or more |
| RED FLAG WARNING - NPW | Winds 15+ mph at 20-foot level, RH 25% or less, temps 75+ F, and critically dry fuels - extreme fire danger behavior |
| FREEZE WARNING - NPW | During growing season, widespread temps around 31 or less resulting in frozen vegetation |
| DUST STORM WARNING - NPW | Widespread/local blowing dust reducing vsbys to 1/4 mile or less for 3 hrs or more, winds =>40 mph |
| AIR STAGNATION ADVISORY - NPW | Major buildup of air pollution, smoke, dust, gases (State DNR usually issues statement as well) |
| HEAT ADVISORY - NPW | HI = > 100 during the day or HI 95-99 for 4 consecutive days or more |
| WIND ADVISORY - NPW | Sustained winds 30 mph or more for 1 hr or more, or any gust 45 to 57 mph |
| FROST ADVISORY - NPW | During growing season, widespread frost with temps 32 – 39F |
| DENSE FOG ADVISORY - NPW | Widespread vsbys = < 1/4 mile, for 3 hours or more |
| FREEZING FOG ADVISORY - NPW | Fog freezing deposits on cold objects resulting impacting transportation. Vsbys generally less than 3 miles. |
| ASHFALL ADVISORY - NPW | Ashfall from volcanic eruption, forest fire, or indirectly from wind suspending ash. Vsbys <= ¼ mile |
| DENSE SMOKE ADVISORY - NPW | Widespread or localized vsbys to = < 1/4 mile to 1 mile or less for 3 hrs or more |
| BLOWING DUST ADVISORY - NPW | Widespread/localized vsbys = < 1/4 mile to 1 mile for 3 hrs or more with winds 30 mph or more |

| MARINE EVENTS | THRESHOLDS |
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| <i>SPECIAL MARINE WARNING - SMW</i> | Winds (convective or non-convective) 34 kts or more for 2 hrs or less, hail ¼ inch or larger, or waterspouts |
| <i>HURRICANE FORCE WIND WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i> | Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 64 kts or greater |
| <i>STORM WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i> | Sustained winds or freq gusts of 48 to 63 kts |
| <i>GALE WARNING - CHIGFLM & MWW</i> | Sustained winds or freq gusts of 34 to 47 kts |
| <i>FREEZING SPRAY WARNING – CHIGFLM & MWW</i> | Temps 20-30F & winds = > 34 kts, or 10-19F & = >25 kts, or <10F & > 20 kts |
| <i>LAKESHORE FLOOD WARNING - CFW</i> | Significant lakeshore flooding, erosion, ice jam, or seiche |
| <i>SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY - MWW</i> | Winds 22 to 33 kts and/or waves > 4 ft |
| <i>DENSE FOG ADVISORY - MWW</i> | Widespread vsbys = < 1 mile, for 3 hours or more |
| <i>ASHFALL ADVISORY - MWW</i> | Ashfall from volcanic eruption, forest fire, or indirectly from wind suspending ash. Vsbys <= ¼ mile |

Updated 06/07/12

J:sdm/WSWfiles/MKXWrngAdvyCheetsheet (.doc and .pdf format)