

## Severe Weather Awareness *Myths & Facts*

**Myth**— If its not raining, then there is no danger from lightning

**Fact**— Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rain fall

**Myth**— The rubber soles of shoes or tires on your car will protect you from being struck by lightning

**Fact**— Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide no protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are inside and not touching metal

**Myth**— Larger vehicles are safe to drive though flood waters

**Fact**— Two feet of rushing water can carry most vehicles away, including SUV's & pick-ups

**Myth**— An approaching tornado will always be visible

**Fact**— While most tornados have a visible funnel, it is not always the case. Tornados can be hidden by trees and terrain, or may even be wrapped in rain

**Myth**— Overpasses are safe shelters when a tornado strikes

**Fact**— Overpasses are unsafe! They can concentrate the wind, making tornados stronger

## 2016 Nebraska Tornado/Severe Weather Facts

**Tornadoes:** 45

**Deaths:** 0      **Injuries:** 0

**Longest Track:** 4.62mi (July 6th—Extreme Southwestern Cherry County)

**Greatest Width:** 300 yds (April 24th—Near Bostwick in Nuckolls County)

**Strongest:** EF2 (3—May 9th in Cass County, June 28th in Cherry County & July 26th in Sheridan County)

**Most in a county:** 4 (Cherry & Sheridan Counties)

**Days of occurrence (1 or more):** 20

**Most in one day:** 7 (July 6th)

**Most in one month:** 13 (May)

**First tornado of the year:** April 24th (EF1—Near Bostwick in Nuckolls County)

**Last tornado of the year:** Christmas Day (3—EF1 in Phelps County, EF0 in Kearney County & Buffalo County)

### Spring Has Sprung! Are You Weather-Ready?

#### • **Know Your Risk**

Tornados, large hail, damaging thunderstorm winds, floods and lightning can be deadly for the unprepared. Knowing the weather related risks posed to you is the first step in becoming Weather-Ready

#### • **Take Action**

You should prepare for the hazards of severe weather season by knowing you are not powerless. You should devise a tornado drill plan for you, your family or your business. You should know what to do if lightning is in the area or flooding becomes threatening. With the hazard potential of the Plains, you should know what to do for each situation and be ready to "take action" if need be. It may save your life and those around you



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### Trivia Question

In what year did a tornado hit St. Paul and cause extensive damage?

Answer: April 1984

**To find the answer like us on Facebook & visit our webpage:**

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### Severe Weather Terminology

**Severe Thunderstorm**— A thunderstorm is considered severe when it produces any of the following: hail 1" (quarter size) or larger in diameter, winds which equal or exceed 58 MPH, or a tornado

**Funnel Cloud**— A funnel shaped cloud, usually extending from a convective cloud, which is associated with a violently rotating column of air that is NOT in contact with the ground

**Tornado**— A violently rotating column of air that extends from a convective cloud and is in contact with the ground. The entire column of air associated with a tornado is not always visible. A tornado may only be visible once it had picked up enough dirt and debris

**Watch**— Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather in and close to the watch area

**Warning**— Issued when sever weather is detected by radar or reported by storm spotters