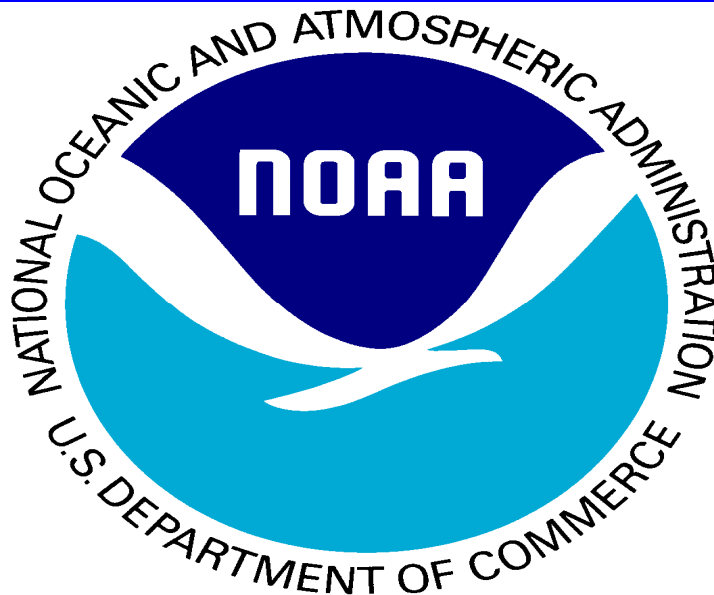
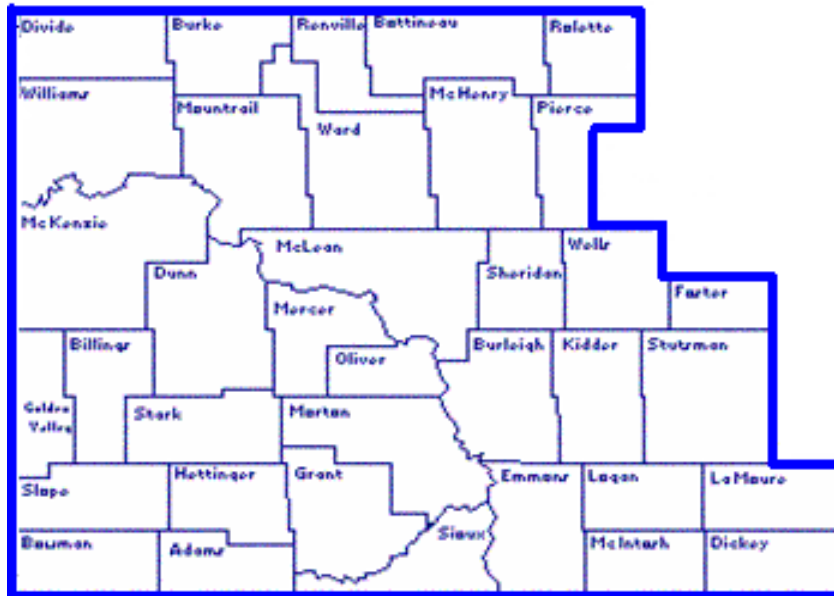


Spring
2008

Dakota Skies

Bismarck North Dakota National Weather Service

A map of the Bismarck CWA (County Warning Area) area of responsibility. We issue graphical and text weather products such as warnings and forecasts for 36 counties in western and central North Dakota. The office has 23 employees of which 14 are meteorologists. We are here to serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round.



Spring 2008 TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Map of Bismarck CWA...1**
- **Table of Contents...2**
- **Severe Summer Weather Awareness Week is April 21 through 25...definitions and safety...2 (continued on page 3)**
- **Test Tornado Drill...2**
- **About this Publication...2**
- **Summer 2008 Outlook...4**
- **Summer / Fall Officially Begins...4**
- **Drought...5**
- **SKYWARN Training...5**

TEST tornado DRILL set for WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23!

A TEST tornado warning DRILL will be conducted on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. The statewide TEST warning will be issued by NOAA's National Weather Service in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services around 11:15 AM CDT. *This is a full test with Weather Radio Alarm and EAS (Emergency Alert System) tones!*

Severe Summer Weather Awareness Week is April 21 through 25

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven designated the week of April 21-25, 2008, as "Severe Summer Weather Awareness Week" in North Dakota. Now is a good time to re-familiarize yourself with summer terms and safety rules. Prepare yourself and your family to be weather safe this summer.

Be sure you know what watches and warnings are, how to receive them, and what to do once they are issued by your NWS (National Weather Service). Familiarize yourself with the latest safety tips. Prepare now to be safe later.

Continued page 3.

About this Publication

Dakota Skies is published twice each year, in the spring and in the fall, by the WCM (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) at your National Weather Service in Bismarck, North Dakota. Its purpose is to heighten awareness about safety for the coming severe weather season, whether it be summer or winter, and to relay information on any changes at the Bismarck NWS. Additionally, other educational and useful information will be provided as space allows. If you have any comments or suggestions contact the Bismarck NWS.

John Paul Martin, WCM
NOAA-NWS
2301 University Dr Building 27
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-250-4495

Web site... www.weather.gov/bis

MIC-Meteorologist-In-Charge
James Meyer (james.meyer@noaa.gov)
WCM-Warning Coordination Meteorologist
John Paul Martin (john.paul.martin@noaa.gov)
SOO-Science Operations Officer
Vic Jensen (viggo.jensen@noaa.gov)
ESA-Electronics Systems Analyst
Karl Venneberg (karl.venneberg@noaa.gov)
OPL-Observing Program Leader
Len Peterson (leonard.peterson@noaa.gov)
SH-Service Hydrologist
Charlene Prindiville
(charlene.prindiville@noaa.gov)

Inquires at 701-223-4582
Weather and a forecast at 701-223-3700

NWS Williston Contacts

NOAA-NWS
402 Airport Rd
Williston, ND 58801-9802
701-572-3198

OIC-Official-In-Charge
Rick Krolak (richard.krolak@noaa.gov)

Definitions- *Watch* means conditions are right in the atmosphere for severe weather to develop. Watch for sudden changes in the weather and be prepared to act quickly. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and floods. They are usually valid for a long time (6 hours) and for a large area (half the state of North Dakota).

Warning means severe weather has been reported, or based on radar and other data, meteorologists at your National Weather Service believe it is occurring. Get to a safe shelter immediately if you are in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. They are usually issued for a short time (an hour or less) and for small areas (a county or smaller). Note that flash flood warnings may be issued for several hours and for a few counties.

Funnel Cloud is a rotating column of air not in contact with the ground.

Tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. A visible funnel is not needed. Look for rotation on the ground.

Severe Thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces 58 mph (or higher) wind and/or 3/4" (or larger) diameter hail. Note that a penny is 3/4" in diameter. Hail the size of a penny, or larger, meets the severe criteria.

Safety- During a tornado get to a basement shelter. The best place is in the center of the basement under a sturdy workbench or under the stairway. If you do not have a basement, go to the center of the lowest level of the home and into a closet or bathroom with no windows. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Stay away from windows. In a school or other large building, go to the lowest level and into a bathroom or a hallway near the center of the building. Stay away from windows! Stay away from large wide open rooms like an auditorium or gymnasium!

Do not try to outrun a tornado in an automobile. Leave the vehicle, get into a ditch, and cover your head. If in an automobile in a city or populated area, do not try to outrun the tornado. Get to a sturdy building.

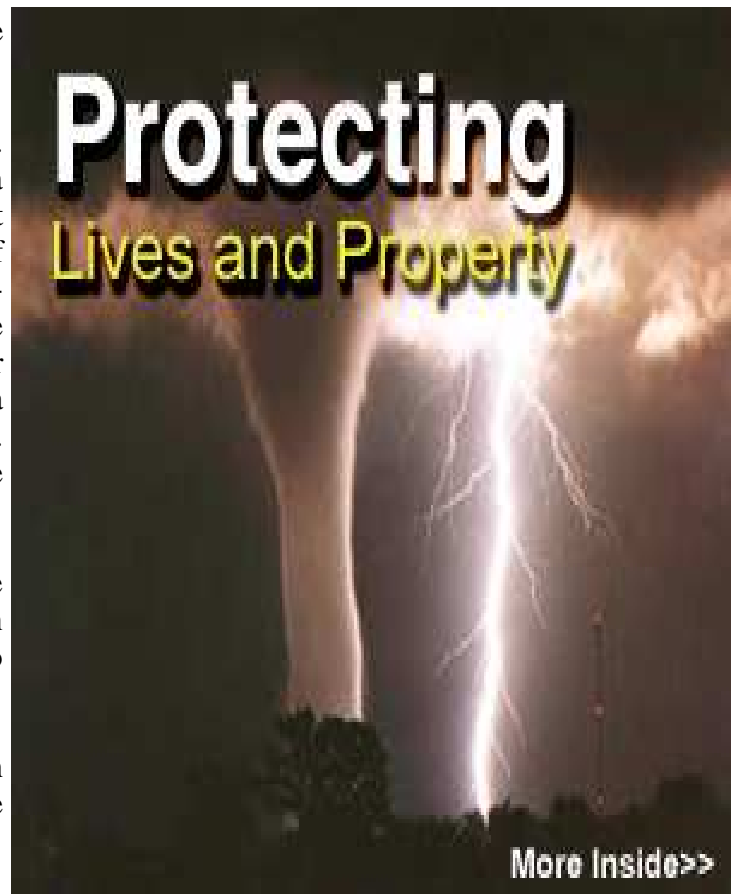
Mobile homes are not safe in tornadoes! Abandon them for a permanent structure! If you live in a mobile home be sure to have a plan for when tornado watches

and warnings are issued.

Lightning is a killer! When thunderstorms are occurring...NO swimming...NO bath or shower...NO boating...NO golf...NO baseball or softball...NO lawn mowing. Stay away from railroad tracks, barbed wire fences, and hill tops. DO NOT stand under isolated trees. DO NOT be the tallest object. DO NOT use electrical appliances. STAY OFF the phone unless it is an emergency. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. When thunderstorms are occurring GET INSIDE!

Floods and flash floods are the number one weather hazard. On average they kill more people in the United States than any other weather hazard. When thunderstorms are forecast DO NOT camp near canyons or dry creek beds. DO NOT drive or walk into flood waters. DO NOT allow children to play in a flooded street or near storm drains or culverts. Most flood deaths occur at night when it is harder to see the danger. If flood water starts collecting around you get to higher ground.

NOAA's National Weather Service has YOU in mind with our mission statement...



Summer 2008 Outlook

Above normal temperatures are forecast for the far western part of North Dakota this summer while the rest of the state is forecast to have a normal summer, temperature wise. As far as precipitation goes, while most of the state is forecast to have normal amounts, drier than average amounts are expected over the southeast.

NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) CPC (Climate Prediction Center) prepares these "very long range" forecasts. The outlook maps are for the three month period called "meteorological summer", namely the months of June, July, and August.

Climate prediction has come a long way and there is a degree of skill involved in it. The forecast graphics below were issued by the CPC on March 20, the latest available as of this publication, and as with any forecast are subject to change. The forecast is actually updated on a monthly basis. Routine updates are issued

on the third Thursday of each month and more frequent updates are issued as conditions warrant.

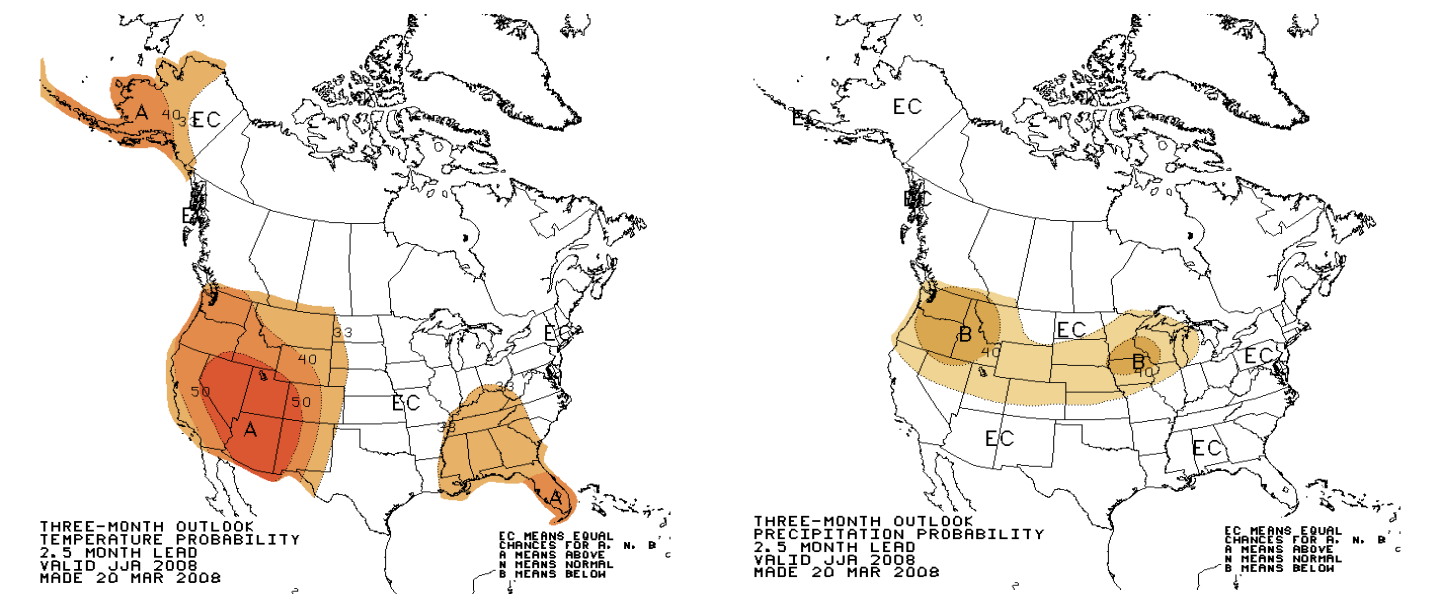
The graphics below simply indicate the chance, as a percentage, of being Above normal (A), Below normal (B), or if no strong indication one way or the other, of having Equal Chances (EC). The graphics indicate the confidence level in being above or below normal, but not how much above or below.

Regardless of the forecast, you can bet that this summer will have hot spells and cool ones, wet spells and dry ones, hail and high wind, some flash floods and on average, 22 tornadoes in North Dakota.

You can keep yourself updated on the latest "long range" forecasts by following this link to the CPC:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

TEMPERATURE (left) AND PRECIPITATION (right) OUTLOOKS FOR SUMMER (June-July-August) 2008



All your weather needs at...www.weather.gov/bis

Summer Officially Begins
6:59 PM CDT Friday, June 20.

Fall Officially Begins
10:44 AM CDT Monday, Sept 22.



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid April 3, 2008 - June, 2008



Released April 3, 2008



KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

2008 remaining SKYWARN training calendar for west and central North Dakota

Through April 16...completed...Gackle...Ellendale...Dickinson...Jamestown...Grenora...
Mohall...Napoleon...and Bottineau.

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| April 17 | 7PM CDT | LaMoure...Civic Center |
| April 21 | 7PM CDT | Weather Safety Bismarck...State Capitol Brynhild Haugland Room |
| April 23 | 7PM CDT | Medina...Emergency Services Building |
| April 24 | 7PM MDT | Hettinger...Emergency Operations Center Adams County Courthouse |
| April 25 | 130 PM CDT | Bismarck...Public Library |
| April 28 | 7PM CDT | Harvey...The Presentation Center |
| April 29 | 7PM CDT | Butte...American Legion |
| April 30 | 7PM MDT | Regent...Fire Hall |
| May 1 | 7PM MDT | Bowman...Courthouse |
| May 5 | 7PM CDT | New Town...Law Enforcement Center |
| May 6 | 6PM MDT | Beach...Ambulance Services Building |
| May 7 | 7PM CDT | Rugby...Otter Tail Power Company |
| May 12 | 7PM CDT | Minot...MSU Campus Aleshire Theatre Hartnett Hall |
| May 13 | 7PM CDT | Kenmare...City Hall Complex Gymnasium |
| May 14 | 7PM CDT | Stanley...Two Way North |
| May 20 | 7PM CDT | Mercer...Fire Station |
| May 21 | 7PM CDT | Center...Courthouse |
| May 22 | 7PM CDT | Mandan...Commission Meeting Room-Lower Level Courthouse |

Check this site for updates...<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/skytrain.php>

This training is open to the public...and there is no charge!

NOAA's NWS Web Site

The National Weather Service has a web site for you to check out. For the Bismarck Office of the NWS, any of these will work

www.weather.gov/bis

www.weather.gov/BIS

www.weather.gov/bismarck

www.weather.gov/Bismarck

From the NWS Bismarck web site you can link to every weather forecast office in the nation. Also, www.weather.gov will get you to the NWS headquarters page. The amount of weather data available on these web sites is tremendous. Take a look and browse around.

NOAA Weather Radio...
It isn't just for weather
anymore...

We are "All-Hazards".

NOAA-The National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration...
parent organization of your
National Weather Service.

Weather is the state or condition of the atmosphere.
Climate is weather over a long period of time.

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA-National Weather Service
2301 University Dr Building 27
Bismarck ND 58504

Official Business