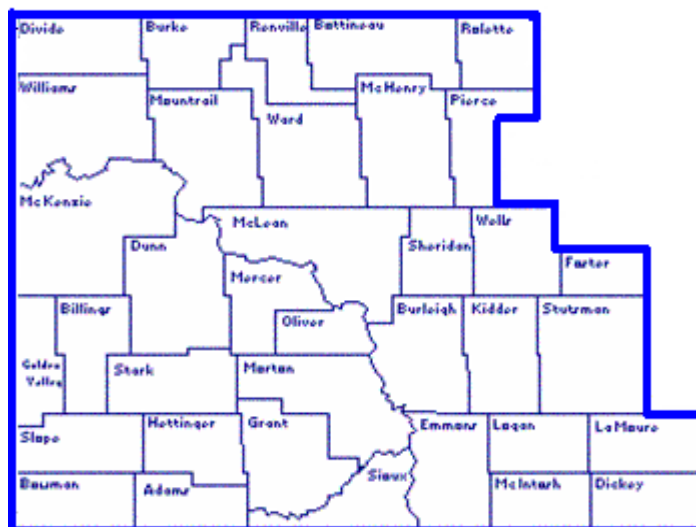


Spring
2006

Dakota Skies

Bismarck North Dakota National Weather Service

A map of the Bismarck CWA (County Warning Area) area of responsibility. We issue weather products such as warnings and forecasts for 36 counties in western and central North Dakota. The office has 23 employees of which 13 are meteorologists. We are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round.



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TEST tornado DRILL set for WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26!

A TEST tornado warning DRILL will be conducted on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. 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 24 through 28

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven designated the week of April 24-28, 2006, 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.

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NOAA-NWS
PO BOX 1016
Bismarck, ND 58502-1016
701-250-4495

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

MIC-Meteorologist-In-Charge
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WCM-Warning Coordination Meteorologist
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SOO-Science Operations Officer
Vic Jensen (viggo.jensen@noaa.gov)
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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.

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.

With respect to flooding...remember this...



Summer 2006 Outlook

The summer of 2006 is forecast to be pretty average across the state of North Dakota. Overall, temperatures and precipitation should end up close to what is typically expected in the Flickertail State.

The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) 2006 Summer Outlook calls for average temperatures and average precipitation over most of the Northern Great Plains, including North Dakota. This outlook is an average over the three month period called “meteorological summer”, 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 (Climate Prediction Center) on March 16, 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 normal (EC), above normal (A),

and below normal (B). The graphics indicate the confidence level in being above or below normal but do not indicate how much above or below.

So, we are expecting an average summer in North Dakota. Climatology shows that an average North Dakota summer includes hot spells and cool ones, wet spells and dry ones, hail and high wind, some flash floods and on average, 21 tornadoes.

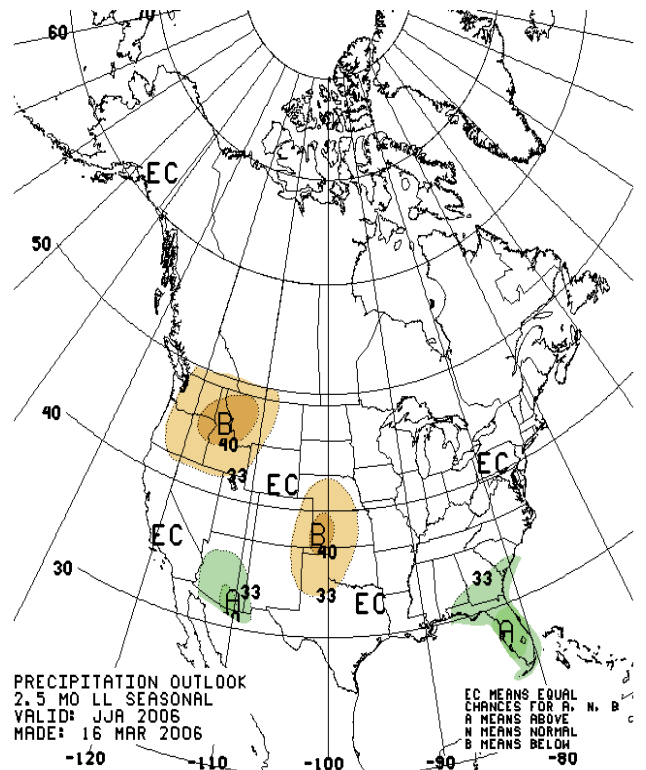
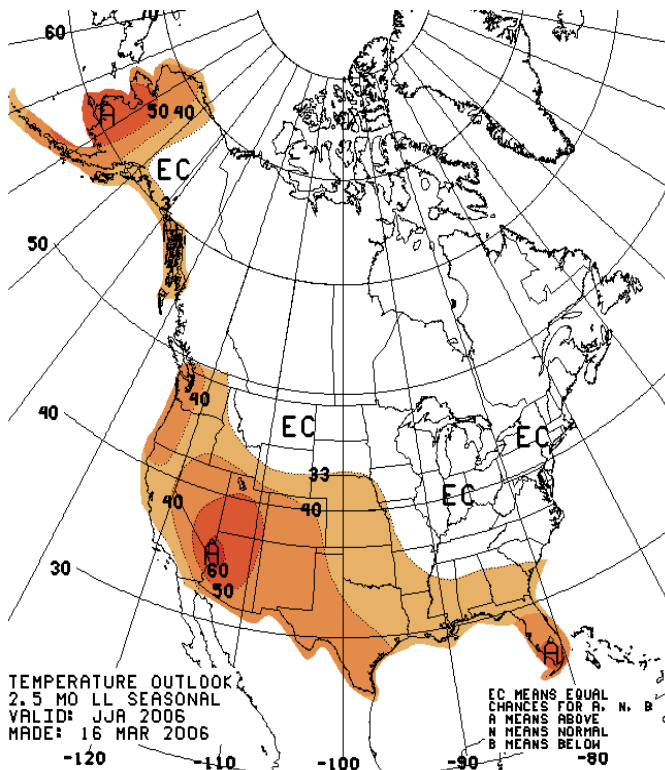
You can keep yourself updated on the latest “long term” forecasts by following this link to the CPC:

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

Weather is the state or condition of the atmosphere.

Climate is weather over a long period of time.

TEMPERATURE (left) AND PRECIPITATION (right) OUTLOOKS FOR SUMMER (June-July-August) 2006



SKYWARN-Severe Weather Training

SKYWARN training is well underway across west and central North Dakota. For a calendar of scheduled sessions follow this link...

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/skytrain.php>

Completed Training

March 30...Linton, Emmons County
April 1...Williston, Williams County
April 5...Mandan, Morton County
April 10...Jamestown, Stutsman County
April 12...Beach, Golden Valley County

March 31...Tioga, Williams County
April 3...Dickinson, Stark County
April 6...Fort Yates, Sioux County (Lodge)
April 11...New England, Hettinger County
April 17...Rolla, Rolette County

Upcoming Training

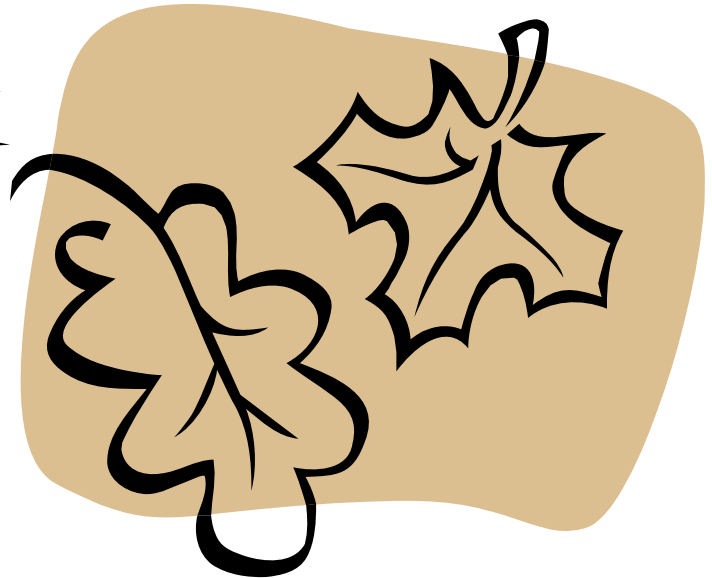
April 19...Glenburn, Renville County
April 24...Harvey, Wells County
April 26...Center, Oliver County
May 2...Hettinger, Adams County
May 8...Granville, McHenry County
May 11...Minot, Ward County
May 22...Carrington, Foster County

April 20...Ellendale, Dickey County
April 26...Bismarck, Burleigh County
April 27...Streeter, Stutsman County
May 4...Bowman, Bowman County
May 9...Underwood, McLean County
May 18...Rugby, Pierce County
June 7...Medora, Billings County

Check the above web site for updates and additions to the list!



Summer Officially Begins
7:26 AM CDT Wednesday, June 21.



Fall Officially Begins
11:03 PM CDT Friday, Sept 22.

New MIC arrives in Bismarck

James Meyer was selected as the new MIC (Meteorologist-In-Charge) of NOAA's NWS Bismarck office. Jim and Judy, his wife, arrived in Bismarck in mid March.

Jim grew up on a farm in northeast Nebraska. It was on that farm that his interest in meteorology took root when he witnessed a tornado at the end of the farm lane. He served in the United States Navy from 1975 to 1979, including a year in Keflavik, Iceland, and close to three years in Sicily, Italy. After that service he accepted a position with NOAA's NWS in North Platte, Nebraska, and went on to earn his Bachelor's of Science degree from San Jose State University in 1988. In 1990 he joined the management team as MIC of the Moline, Illinois, NWS office. Under the NWS modernization program the Moline office was relocated to a new facility at the Davenport, Iowa, Airport. There Jim served as the WCM (Warning Coordination Meteorologist).

In October of 2002 Jim accepted the MIC position at Pocatello, Idaho, and on March 19, 2006, became the MIC at Bismarck.

Jim and Judy have three children and four grandchildren. One daughter resides in Kentucky, another in Wisconsin, and a son is stationed with the United States Coast Guard in St. Louis, Missouri.

If you would like to contact Jim he is generally available Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM Central Time. He can be reached at 701-250-4224 or e-mail at james.meyer@noaa.gov.



All the weather information you need is available at...

www.weather.gov/bis

Richard Krolak selected OIC at Williston

Rick Krolak has been selected as the OIC (Official-In-Charge) at NOAA's NWS Williston office.

Rick was a meteorological technician at Williston since November, 2001. Several times over the past few years he has served as Acting OIC and was selected permanently for that position in November, 2005.

Rick is originally from Albany, New York, and has a long history in weather. He served the people of the United States for 20 years in the Navy where he had responsibility for weather observing and forecasting, particularly for aviation interests. He retired from the Navy in 2001 as a Chief Petty Officer, and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Resource Management from Troy State University, Pensacola, Florida, before joining the National Weather Service.

Rick and Esther, his wife of 23 years, have three sons and two grandchildren.

Contact Rick at 701-572-3198 or e-mail at richard.krolak@noaa.gov.



NOAA Weather Radio (All-Hazards)...

The closest you can come to someone knocking on your door and telling you that a tornado is on its way!

Designated Weather Watchers

Emergency Managers have filled the role of "Designated Weather Watcher" for a long time in their communities. In that role the Emergency Manager was weather watcher for a whole city or even a whole county. Now the NWS is encouraging this concept be developed down to the lowest level, right down to your family, business, or place of employment. The goal is to get those in charge of our schools, hospitals, businesses, nursing homes, mobile home parks, athletic parks, and other facilities, to make the Designated Weather Watcher a regular part of their operations. The Designated Weather Watcher is the person in the building or park, or at home, who pays close attention to the weather for everyone else. This person would have a NOAA Weather Radio (All Hazards) and internet access, or a television. The person listens and watches for potential weather hazards to the group. The person stays up to date on the latest weather information and knows when and how to initiate action to alert the group or family. Ideally the Designated Weather Watcher would be a person who has attended SKYWARN severe weather training and is knowledgeable about severe weather terms and the mission and operations of the National Weather Service.

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

and you will end up at the NWS Bismarck web site.

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.

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anymore...

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