

# Time Series of NWS Severe Weather Products

1-3 Days

24 Hours

1 Hour

Severe Weather Event

3 p.m.  
the Next Day

SWO

HWO

SEL#, SLS, or FFA

NOW

NOW

NOW

SWA

TOR

SVR

TOR

SVR

SVS

FFW

FFW

FFS

LSR

PNS

## SWO Significant Weather Outlook

Issued as SPSATL when needed. Typically used to give 1 to 3 day notice of major severe or winter weather outbreaks.

## HWO Hazardous Weather Outlook

Issued as SPSATL daily at 6 a.m. Updated if conditions dramatically change. Conveys the threat of hazardous weather expected by 6 a.m. the next day. Conditions forecast include thunderstorm phenomena, winter weather, dense fog, and flooding. Spotter activation messages are included.

## SEL#, SLS, FFA Watches

**Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watches** are issued as SEL# (where # is a number from 0 to 9). Counties affected by a specific watch are listed in the Georgia Areal Outline (SLSGA) product. **Flash Flood Watches** are issued as FFA by the local NWS office. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for a phenomenon to occur. They are typically issued 0-6 hours prior to event.

## NOW Short-Term Forecast

A multipurpose forecast product issued as needed and valid for 1-6 hours. During severe weather, it is used to update existing watches and/or ongoing weather.

## SWA Significant Weather Alert

**NEW!!** Also issued as a Short-Term Forecast (NOW), but with a "Significant Weather Alert" headline. Issued for dangerous storms not meeting "severe" criteria. It is typically issued for one hour or less and for only a few counties at a time.

## TOR SVR Tornado Warning Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Indicates danger is imminent or occurring. Severe thunderstorms contain  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hail or larger and/or winds > 58 mph. Issued as needed, typically for one hour or less.

## SVS Severe Weather Statement

Issued to provide updates on existing (TOR or SVR) warnings. Can describe new development in a county already under a warning. May be issued several times during a valid warning.

## **FFW** Flash Flood Warning

Indicates imminent or occurring flooding characterized by rapid rises in small creeks, streams, or low-water crossings. Issued as needed, typically for 1-4 hours.

## **FFS** Flash Flood Statement

Updates existing Flash Flood Warnings.

## **LSR** Local Storm Report

Issued periodically during and after a severe weather event. This collection of severe weather and damage reports provides media, emergency managers, and neighboring NWS offices a quick assessment of the event's severity. Issued as soon as possible after reports are received.

## **PNS** Public Information Statement

A post-event summary issued by 3:00 p.m. the day after a particularly significant or interesting event. Designed for the media, it summarizes noteworthy aspects of the event, including times, locations, phenomenon counts, and meteorological conditions contributing to the event.

## **SPS** Special Weather Statement

Used to cancel watches and to issue other products (see HWO and SWO). The SPS serves as a "catch-all" product for miscellaneous but important weather-related messages.

# National Weather Service

## Severe Weather Product Suite

Prepared by the National Weather Service  
Weather Forecast Office  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
[www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc)