

**National Weather Service  
Watches/Warnings/Advisory  
Criteria and Definitions  
(Valid for Eastern Montana)**



<b>Winter Weather Watches</b>	<b>Criteria / Definition</b>
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Winter Storm Watch	Conditions are favorable for hazardous winter weather conditions including heavy snow, blizzard conditions, or significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet in the next 12 to 48 hours. It may also include wind chills if they are expected with the above listed events.
Blizzard Watch	Conditions are favorable for blizzard conditions in the next 12 to 48 hours.
Wind Chill Watch	Conditions are favorable for dangerous wind chills in the next 12 to 48 hours.

<b>Winter Weather Warnings</b>	<b>Criteria / Definition</b>
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Winter Storm Warning	Any one or a combination of the following: -6 inches of snow or more in 12 hours or 8 inches of snow or more in 24 hours. -Sustained winds of less than 34 mph causing blowing snow (with or without snowfall occurring) reducing visibility to more than a ¼ mile for 3 hours or more. -Ice accumulations of a ¼" or more. -Wind Chill of ≤ -40 degrees with winds of ≥ 10 mph occurring with any of the above criteria
Blizzard Warning	Sustained or frequent gusts of 35 mph or more, frequent visibilities of ≤ ¼ mile, falling and/or blowing snow for 3 hours or more.
Wind Chill Warning	Wind chills of ≤ -40 degrees with winds of ≥ 10 mph, no precipitation occurring

<b>Winter Weather Advisories</b>	<b>Criteria / Definition</b>
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Winter Weather Advisory	Any one or a combination of the following: -2 to 5 inches of snow in 12 hours. -Wind driven snow that occasionally reduces visibilities down to a ¼ mile. -Wind Chill Advisory criteria along with 2-5 inches of snow and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to down to a ¼ mile. -Sleet -An event that transitions to or from Freezing Rain into any of the above criteria
Wind Chill Advisory	Wind chills of -20 degrees to -39 degrees with winds of ≥ 10 mph, no precipitation occurring
Freezing Rain Advisory	Glazing of freezing drizzle or freezing rain with accumulations of less than ¼ inch.

<b>Flooding Products</b>	<b>Criteria / Definition</b>
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Flood Watch	The potential exists for a river to exceed flood stage in the next 12 to 72 hours. (Issued for the Milk, Missouri, Poplar and Yellowstone Rivers)
Flash Flood Watch	The potential exists for heavy rains to create flash flooding in the next 6 to 24 hours.
Flood Warning	The river is expected to exceed flood stage in the next 48 hours. Loss of life or property is possible with this type of event. (Issued for the Milk, Missouri, Poplar, and Yellowstone Rivers)
Flash Flood Warning	Flash Flood conditions are occurring or are expected to occur in the next 6 hours. Loss of life or property is possible with this type of event.
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory	This is used for minor flooding in towns, or small creeks, or areas where roads may have running water over them.
Urban/Small Stream Flood Warnings	This is used for significant flooding within a town, or on creeks and streams that are tributaries to mainstem rivers. Loss of life or property is possible during this type of event.
Flood or River Statement	This is just a statement that gives you information on a creek or river that is rising, but isn't expected to reach flood stage.

## Summer Watches

## Criteria / Definition

Severe Thunderstorm Watch	Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area within the next 12 hours.
Tornado Watch	Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms producing tornadoes in and close to the watch area in the next 12 hours.

## Summer Warnings

## Criteria / Definition

Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Hail $\frac{3}{4}$ " (penny size) diameter or larger and/or wind gusts of 58 mph or greater.
Tornado Warning	Radar or satellite indication and/or reliable spotter reports of a tornado.

## Wind and Fog Advisories

## Criteria / Definition

Wind Advisory	<u>Livingston Area / Beartooth Foothills Only</u> – Sustained winds $\geq$ 40 mph for at least 2 hours or any gust between 58 mph to 74 mph.
Dense Fog Advisory	Visibility $\leq$ $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for 3 hours more.
Lake Wind Advisory	Fort Peck Lake only – Winds sustained at 20 mph or higher for 3 hours or more, or any gusts to 30 mph or higher.

## High Wind Watch / Warning

## Criteria / Definition

High Wind Watch	Conditions are favorable for high winds in and close to the watch area in the next 12 to 48 hours.
High Wind Warning	Sustained winds $\geq$ 40 mph for at least 2 hours or any gust $\geq$ 58 mph.

## Fire Watch / Red Flag Warning

## Criteria / Definition

Fire Weather Watch	Conditions are favorable for red flag conditions in and close to the watch area in the next 12 to 48 hours.
Red Flag Warning	Fire Danger Very High or Extreme, Sustained winds $\geq$ 20 mph and relative humidity $\leq$ 20%, scattered dry thunderstorms, increased tstm activity after a prolonged dry period, abrupt change in wind speed and direction that may affect the area.

Internet Access: <http://www.weather.gov/Glasgow>

## Contact Information:

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