



# National Weather Service

## Lincoln, Illinois



...Proudly Serving Central and Southeast Illinois since 1879...

### Who we are...

The National Weather Service in Lincoln is a team of 22 meteorologists, technicians, and support staff dedicated to providing weather forecasts, warnings, and data for the local community here in Central Illinois. We've been in Lincoln for just over 10 years, after the Peoria and Springfield offices merged during a modernization effort in 1995. The National Weather Service has had a presence in the area starting in Springfield in 1879.



Our office is located in rural Logan County, on the eastern outskirts of Lincoln, near the Logan County Airport, and surrounded by farms and fields.

### What we do...

•We issue warnings and statements for severe and potentially dangerous weather, such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, heavy snowfall, dense fog, and high winds. Our aim is to help prevent the loss of life and protect property. This is our **top priority** in our day to day operations!

•We produce public forecasts for Central and Southeast Illinois, out to 7 days, in text and graphical formats, available on the web.

•We produce aviation forecasts for the 5 largest airports in the region: Bloomington, Peoria, Champaign, Springfield, and Decatur. We also forecast along aviation routes between Saint Louis and Chicago.

•We launch weather balloons twice daily as part of the Global Upper Air data network, and take supplemental surface weather observations.

•Together with our cooperative observers, we gather data that forms the backbone of the United States and World Climate data record.



### Our Mission Statement...

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.



### Visit us on the Web...

<http://www.weather.gov/Lincoln>

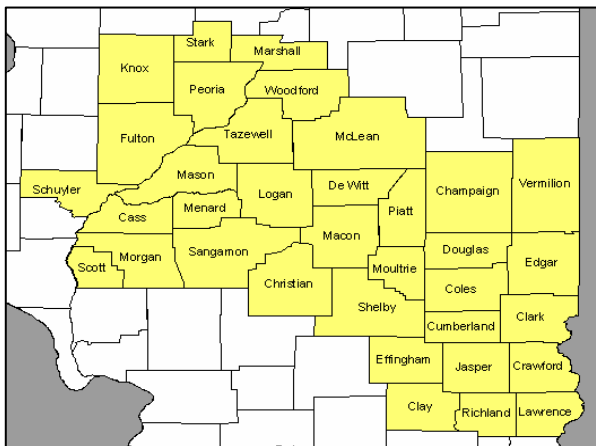


### Weather via Phone...

Peoria Area (309) 697-8620  
Springfield Area (217) 522-0642



### Who we serve...



Our area of Forecast and Warning responsibility covers all of Central and parts of Southeast Illinois.

### What is NOAA Weather Radio?



**NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)** is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting **continuous weather information** direct from the National Weather Service. NWR broadcasts severe weather warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

NWR requires a special, **inexpensive** radio receiver or a scanner capable of picking up the signal on the frequencies listed above. Some new car stereos include NWR frequencies. Most receivers come with an **alarm** feature that will **alert you of weather warnings** or other important statements when they are issued.

**Weather radios** are a perfect **safety tool** for giving a "heads up" to **hikers** as well as organizers of outdoor events, baseball and soccer **coaches**, etc. They can be thought of as a **Smoke Detector for severe weather** in the home.

Weather Radios can be purchased from many vendors such as electronics and camping supply stores. For a list of online vendors, browse to: <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>.







# National Weather Service

Lincoln, Illinois

...Proudly Serving Central and Southeast Illinois since 1879...



## Weather Resources for Teachers!



The National Weather Service in Lincoln continues to build a strong Outreach program. Teachers can arrange for a **classroom visit** from one of our meteorologists, or make arrangements to have a **tour of our facilities** in Lincoln, Illinois.

### How to Arrange for an Office Tour or Classroom Visit:

Office tours can be arranged by appointment outside of Severe Weather Season... generally outside of March through August as severe weather outbreaks can occur on relatively short notice, which will demand all of our staff's time. Tour groups of 20 or less are recommended, as our space is limited. Groups up to 40 can be broken up. Also, we recommend tours only for grades 3 and up, as they tend to gain the most from their visits.

A Weather Service meteorologist can also visit your classroom. We can talk about meteorology as a career, recent weather events, tornadoes, work on activities, etc. Presentations can be customized to reinforce topics already discussed in class.

To arrange for a visit or a tour, contact **Chris Miller**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, by email at [chris.miller@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.miller@noaa.gov) or by phone: (217) 732-4029 x726

## Volunteer Opportunities...

### Cooperative Weather Observers (COOP):



The NWS office in Lincoln operates a network of over 100 cooperative weather observers. These observers take daily observations of temperature, precipitation, or river levels. These observations are used by NWS and River Forecast Centers, and are

archived as a critical part of the national climate record. Being a COOP observer requires a special commitment to duty. For more information, contact Billy Ousley, Data Acquisition Program Manager, by email at [billy.ousley@noaa.gov](mailto:billy.ousley@noaa.gov) or by phone: (217) 732-4029 x327.

### Significant Weather Observers (SWOP):



SWOP observers report a wide variety of weather conditions on an as-needed basis to the NWS. Storm damage, tornadoes, hail size, wind gusts, rain and snowfall amounts are included. This information is highly valuable to our forecasters. For more information, log

on to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx/swop/swop.php>. Training sessions are conducted twice a year, and the schedule will be online soon.

### Storm Spotters (Skywarn):



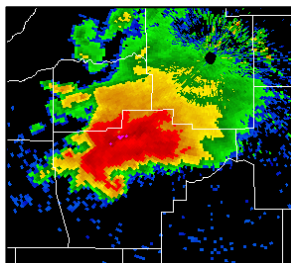
The staff of the National Weather Service in Lincoln provides training for local county Storm Spotters across Central Illinois. These training sessions typically take place in early Spring, and are usually open to the public. For more information, contact your County ESDA, or talk to Chris Miller at the NWS... call (217) 732-4029 x726, or send an email to [chris.miller@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.miller@noaa.gov).

## Tools of the Trade...



Perhaps you've seen our WSR-88D **Doppler Radar** off the side of IL State Route 10? If not, you've certainly seen data from it on local and national newscasts every day. Our weather radar is part of a nationwide network keeping track of rain, snow, and thunderstorms across America, 24/7.

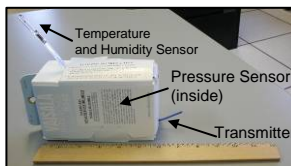
Not only does our radar keep track of rain and snow, it also has the ability to detect large hail, and measure wind speed and direction. This important feature of the radar allows us to identify severe thunderstorms capable of producing strong, damaging winds or tornadoes.



Twice a day, hundreds of **weather balloons**, each carrying an instrument called a **radiosonde**, are simultaneously launched throughout the world, including right here in Lincoln.



The radiosonde package reports temperature and humidity data back to our station via a small radio transmitter. A directional antenna (the smaller dome in the top photo) is used to track the path of the instrument, and computer software is used to derive the winds above earth's surface. The balloons often travel 20 miles overhead before finally bursting. A small parachute carries the instrument back to earth. If retrieved, the packages can be reconditioned and reused, saving the taxpayers some money.



**AWIPS** (Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System), the heart of NWS operations, is an integrated computer system that can display a variety of weather data. Satellite and high speed dedicated internet feeds are used to receive the



Data which can then be displayed and manipulated on Linux-based workstations. AWIPS software is also used to write and issue special weather statements and warnings, and generate products for NOAA Weather Radio.



**National Weather Service**  
Central Illinois Weather Forecast Office  
1362 State Route 10  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
Tel: (217) 732.3089

The NWS is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of the United States Government Department of Commerce.