

STORM PREDICTION CENTER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>) is responsible for short-term hazardous weather forecasting across the contiguous United States. Located in Norman, Okla., the center coordinates with National Weather Service (NWS) field offices around the country and provides short-term guidance of hazardous and economically-disruptive weather events, such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, blizzards, freezing precipitation, flash floods and fire weather.

Hazardous Weather Forecasting

Every tornado and severe thunderstorm watch issued in the United States originates at the SPC. Part of the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction, the SPC is the primary center of expertise for forecasting short-term hazardous weather events, and is world renowned for its excellence in forecasting exceptionally severe and or long-lived thunderstorms. The center makes maximum use of observations, numerical forecast models, Doppler radar, geostationary satellites, and the latest science and technology in generating their forecasts.

In addition to working with field offices and other national centers within the NWS, the SPC collaborates with local, national and international communities, as well as various NOAA agencies and academia. This collaboration increases the understanding of hazardous weather environments across the United States, and promotes the infusion of new science and technology into the SPC's operation.

The Storm Prediction Center's guidance is used by numerous agencies to enhance the protection of life and property, including severe thunderstorm forecasts out to three days in advance and short-term tornado and severe thunderstorm watches. By providing timely and accurate guidance, the SPC enhances the level of products and services the NWS issues to the public, and helps the NWS offices effectively accomplish their public safety responsibilities.

The SPC is the nation's only all hazards weather forecast center. Its forecasters deal with hazardous weather 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The SPC maintains a continuous weather watch over the entire contiguous 48 states, and issues most of its products on an as-needed, event driven basis. The SPC provides its partners and customers a one-stop source of mesoscale meteorological information. SPC products are available on the World Wide Web and are commonly used by local National Weather Service offices, emergency managers, TV and radio meteorologists, private weather forecasting companies, the aviation industry, storm spotters, agriculture, educational institutions and many other groups.

