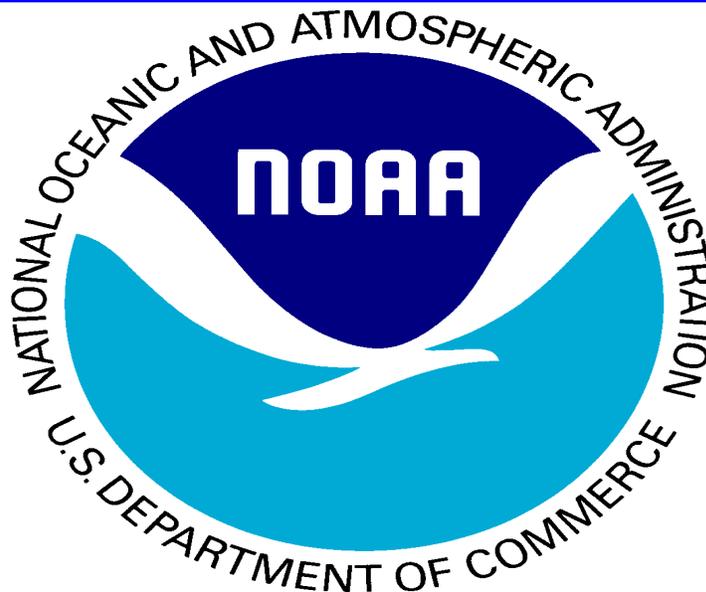
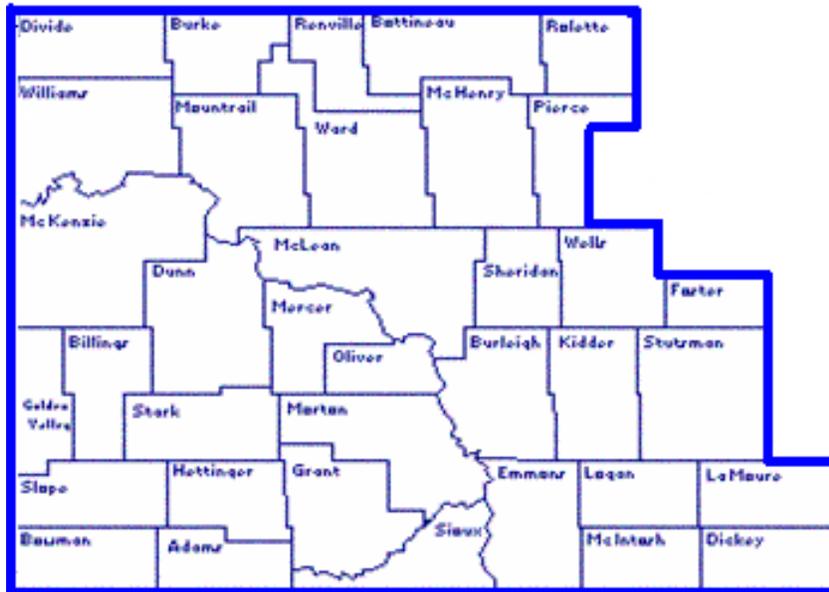


Spring
2010

Dakota Skies

Bismarck North Dakota National Weather Service

A map of the Bismarck CWA (County Warning Area) area of responsibility. We issue graphical and text weather products such as warnings and forecasts for 36 counties in western and central North Dakota. The office has 23 employees of which 14 are meteorologists. We are here to serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round.



Spring 2010 TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Map of Bismarck CWA...1**
- **Table of Contents...2**
- **Severe Summer Weather Awareness Week is April 26 through 30...definitions and safety...2 (continued on page 3)**
- **Test Tornado Drill...2**
- **About this Publication...2**
- **Summer 2010 Outlook...4**
- **Summer / Fall Officially Begins...4**
- **SKYWARN Training...5**
- **NOAA Weather Radio...6**

TEST tornado DRILL set for WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28!

A TEST tornado warning DRILL will be conducted on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. 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 26 through 30

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven designated the week of April 26-30, 2010, 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.

John Paul Martin, WCM
NOAA-NWS
2301 University Dr Building 27
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-250-4495

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

MIC-Meteorologist-In-Charge
Jeff Savadel (jeff.savadel@noaa.gov)
WCM-Warning Coordination Meteorologist
John Paul Martin (john.paul.martin@noaa.gov)
SOO-Science Operations Officer
Vacant (@noaa.gov)
ESA-Electronics Systems Analyst
Karl Venneberg (karl.venneberg@noaa.gov)
OPL-Observing Program Leader
Len Peterson (leonard.peterson@noaa.gov)
SH-Service Hydrologist
Allen Schlag (allen.schlag@noaa.gov)

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. Look for rotation on the ground.

Severe Thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces 58 mph (or higher) wind and/or 1" (or larger) diameter hail. Note that a quarter is 1" in diameter. Hail the size of a quarter, 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!

In a city or populated area do not try to outrun a tornado in an automobile. Get to a sturdy building. In open country with a tornado off in the distance, determine which way it is going, and drive away from it.

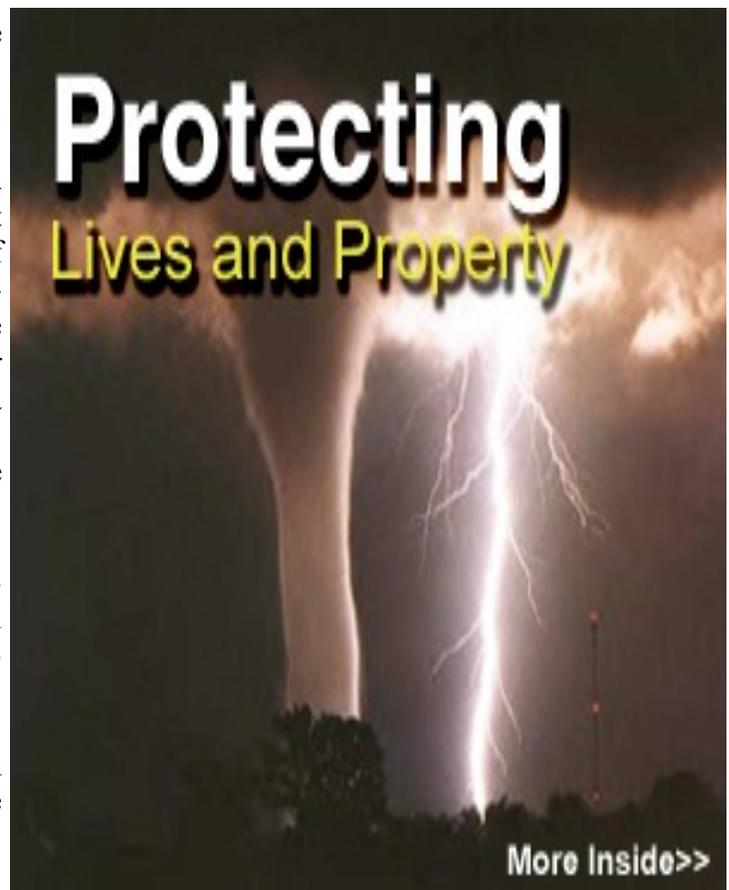
Mobile homes are not safe in tornadoes! Abandon them for a permanent structure! If you live in a mobile home be sure to have a plan for when tornado watches

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.

NOAA's National Weather Service has YOU in mind with our mission statement...



Summer 2010 Outlook

For most of North Dakota this summer there is a better chance of having below normal temperatures than there is of having above normal temperatures. As far as precipitation goes, there is no strong indication one way or the other, so an expectation of near normal amounts might be the best bet.

At this point it does not look like a cold summer, just a bit cooler than what is normal. The normal summer temperature (June-July-August) is 68.3 degrees when you consider all years of record at Bismarck (back to 1875). Last summer (2009) had an average temperature of 65.0 degrees. That's quite cold, and in reality the 14 coldest summer on record (back to 1875) in Bismarck. For the summer of 2010, on the cool side—yes, but as cold as 2009—no.

NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) CPC (Climate Prediction Center) prepares these "very long range" forecasts. The outlook maps are for the three month period called "meteorological summer", namely 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 on April 15, the latest available as of this publication, 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.

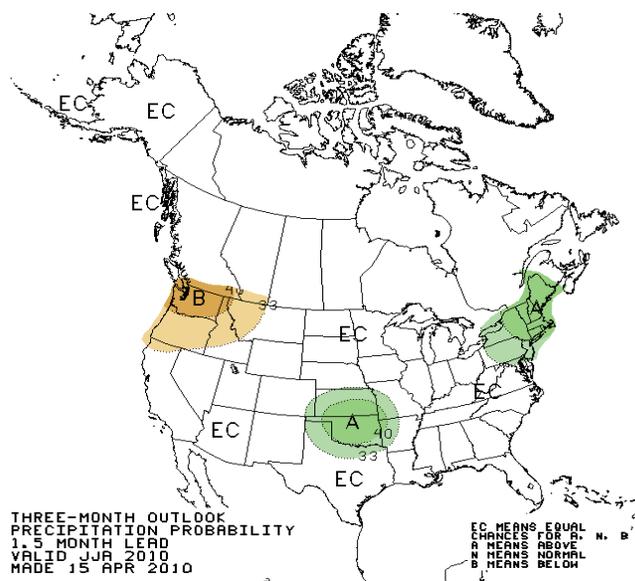
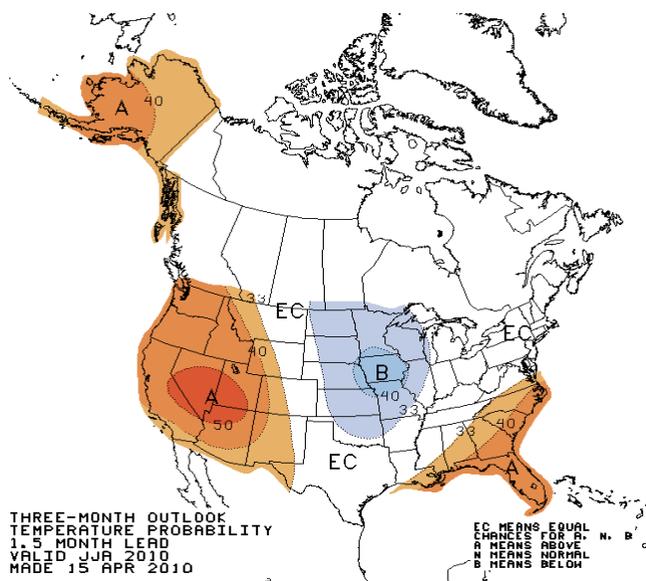
The graphics below simply indicate the chance, as a percentage, of being Above normal (A), Below normal (B), or if no strong indication one way or the other, of having Equal Chances (EC). The graphics indicate the confidence level in being above or below normal, but not how much above or below.

Regardless of the forecast, you can bet that this summer will have hot spells and cool ones, wet spells and dry ones, hail and high wind, some flash floods and on average, 22 tornadoes in North Dakota.

Check out the CPC web site here:

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

TEMPERATURE (left) AND PRECIPITATION (right) OUTLOOKS FOR SUMMER (June-July-August) 2010



Summer Officially Begins
6:28 AM CDT Monday, June 21.

Fall Officially Begins
10:09 PM CDT Wednesday, Sept 22.

2010 SKYWARN training calendar for west and central North Dakota is a Top News of the Day Headline at www.weather.gov/bis

More will be added so check that site for those updates and additions.

Through April 20...completed talks...Harvey...Center...Bottineau...Mandan... Jamestown... Tappen...Beach...Dickinson...Ellendale...and Carrington.

April 29	7PM CDT	Williston
May 4	7PM CDT	Max
May 5	7PM MDT	Mott
May 6	7PM MDT	Beulah
May 10	7PM CDT	Minot
May 11	2PM CDT	Fort Yates
May 11	7PM CDT	Bowman
May 12	630PMMDT	Elgin
May 13	2PM CDT	New Town
May 13	7PM CDT	Mandaree
May 14	130PMCDT	Bismarck
May 18	7PM MDT	Twin Buttes
May 19	7PM CDT	Kenmare
May 24	7PM CDT	Rugby
May 25	7PM CDT	White Shield
May 27	7PM CDT	Ashley

????? 7 PM CDT Mohall
????? Your Town, ND

Skywarn is where the National Weather Service comes to your community and presents severe weather information. It is a fun and educational time with lots of cool video!

Check this site for updates...www.weather.gov/bis

This training is open to the public...and there is no charge!

The training is free, the public is invited and encouraged to attend, and there is no need to register, just show up. Sessions last about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Topics covered include: thunderstorm formation, structure, and strength; thunderstorm hazards like wind, hail, flash floods, tornadoes, and lightning; the importance of weather reports and how to get them to the NWS; and weather safety.

If you would like a session scheduled for your community, contact your
County or Tribal Emergency Manager.

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

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.

NOAA Weather Radio...
It isn't just for weather
anymore...

We are "All-Hazards".

NOAA-The National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration...
parent organization of your
National Weather Service.

Weather is the state or condition of the atmosphere.
Climate is weather over a long period of time.

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA-National Weather Service
2301 University Dr Building 27
Bismarck ND 58504

Official Business