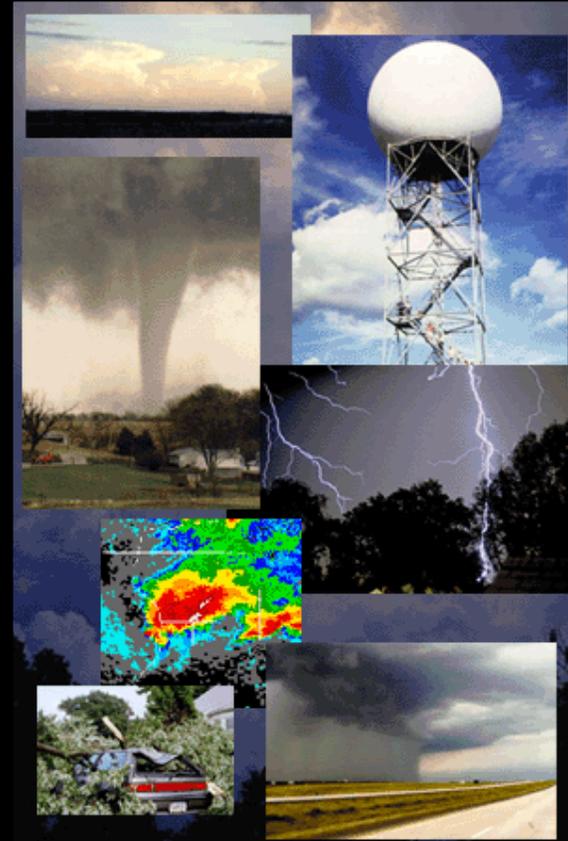


NOAA'S National Weather Service

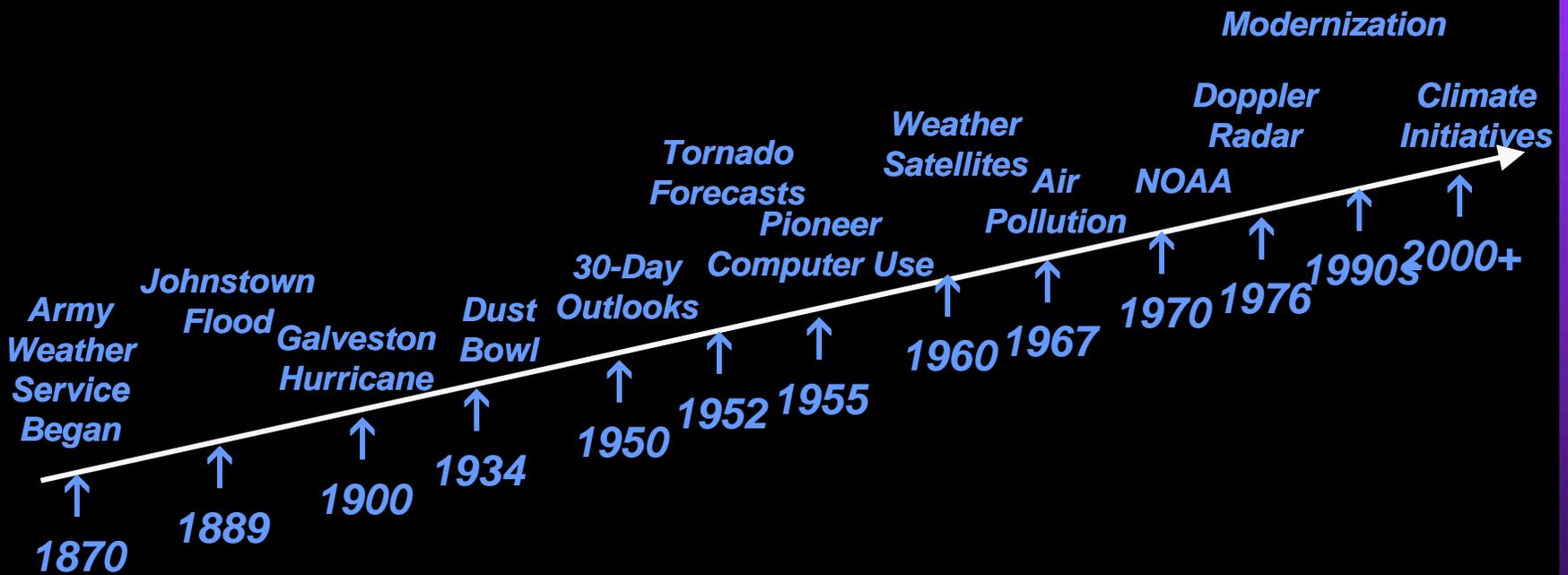
Forecast Office in the Quad Cities

Who are we and what do we do?

- A Federal Government Agency
- Under NOAA – National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Created by Congress for the Protection of Life and Property



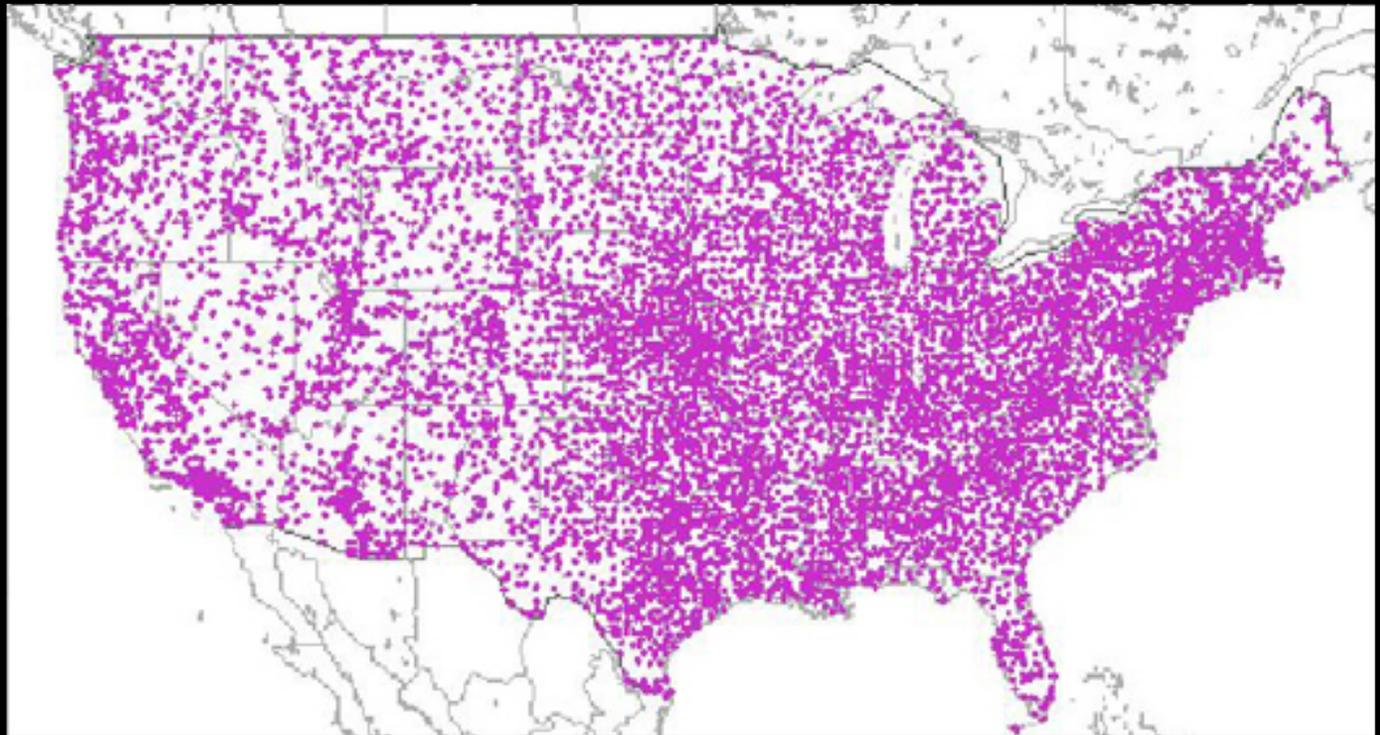
NWS Milestones



From: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx/timeline.html>

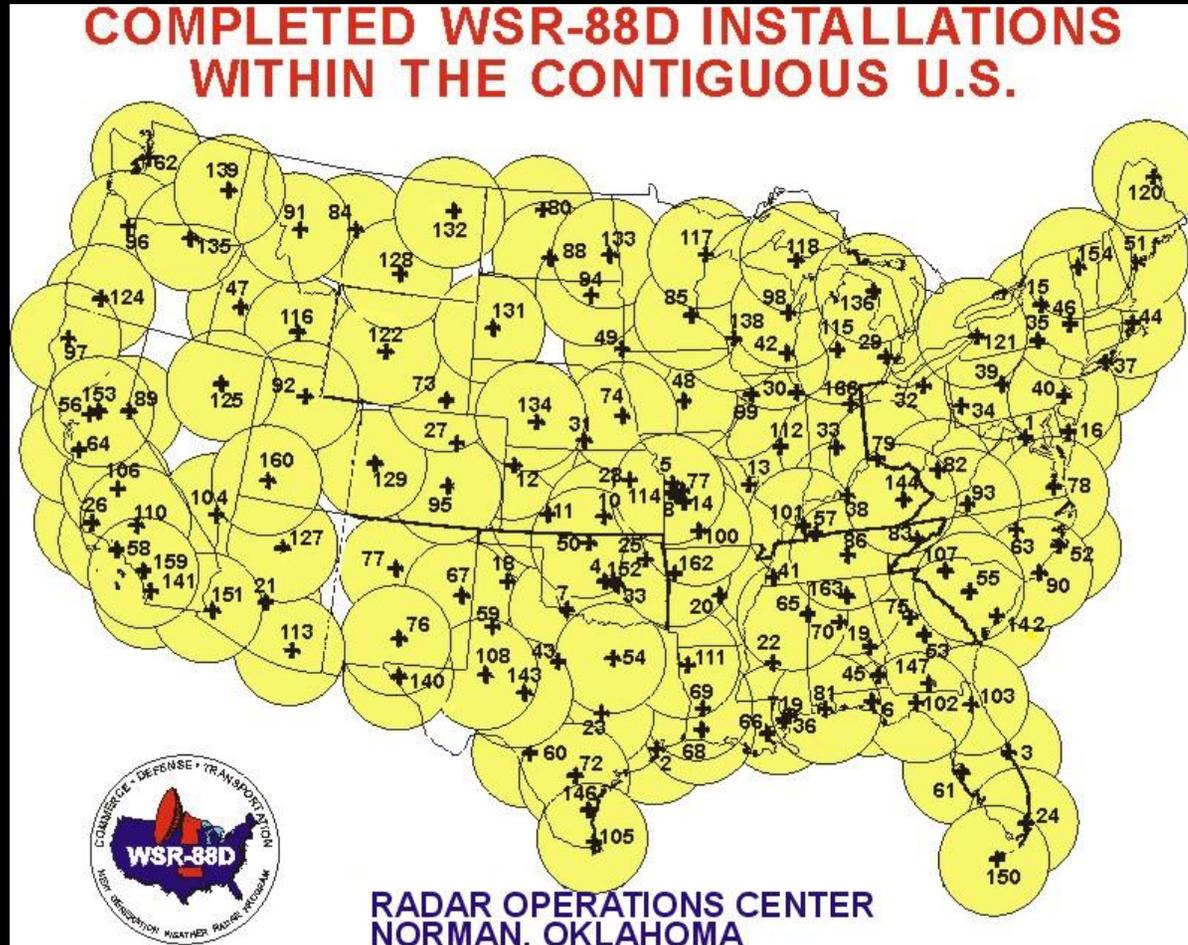
Nationwide – Climate Network

- More than 11,000 Cooperative Observers
- 314 ASOS surface observing systems
- Other automated surface systems



Nationwide – Network of Radars

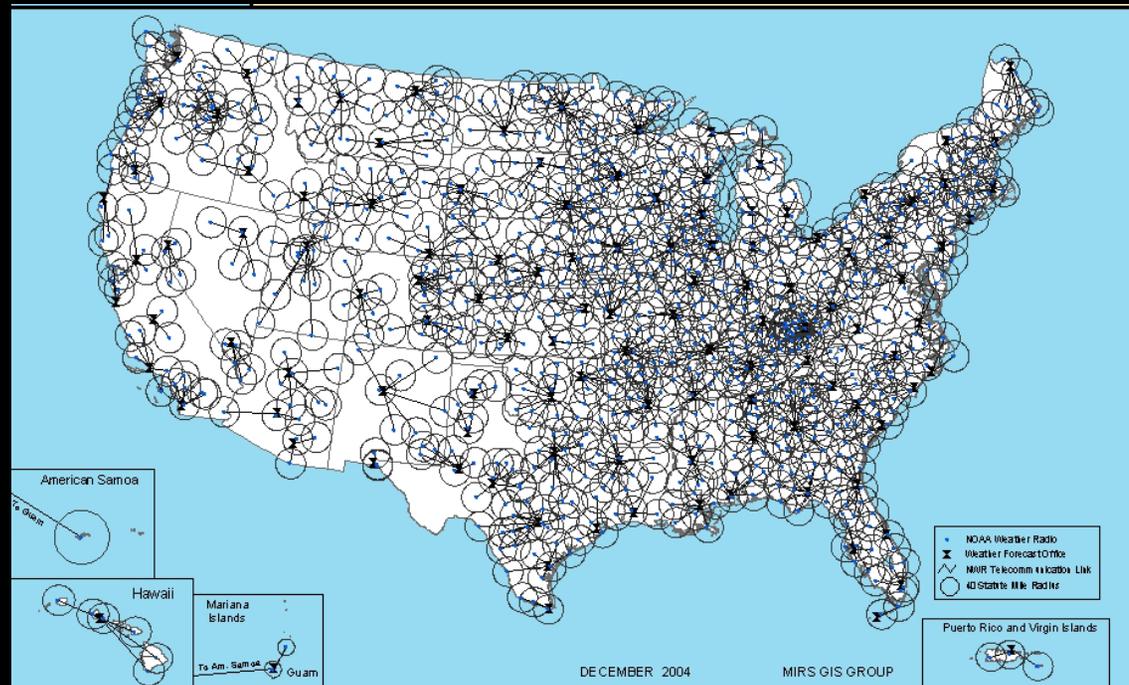
123 Radars nationwide



Nationwide – Blanket of Protection

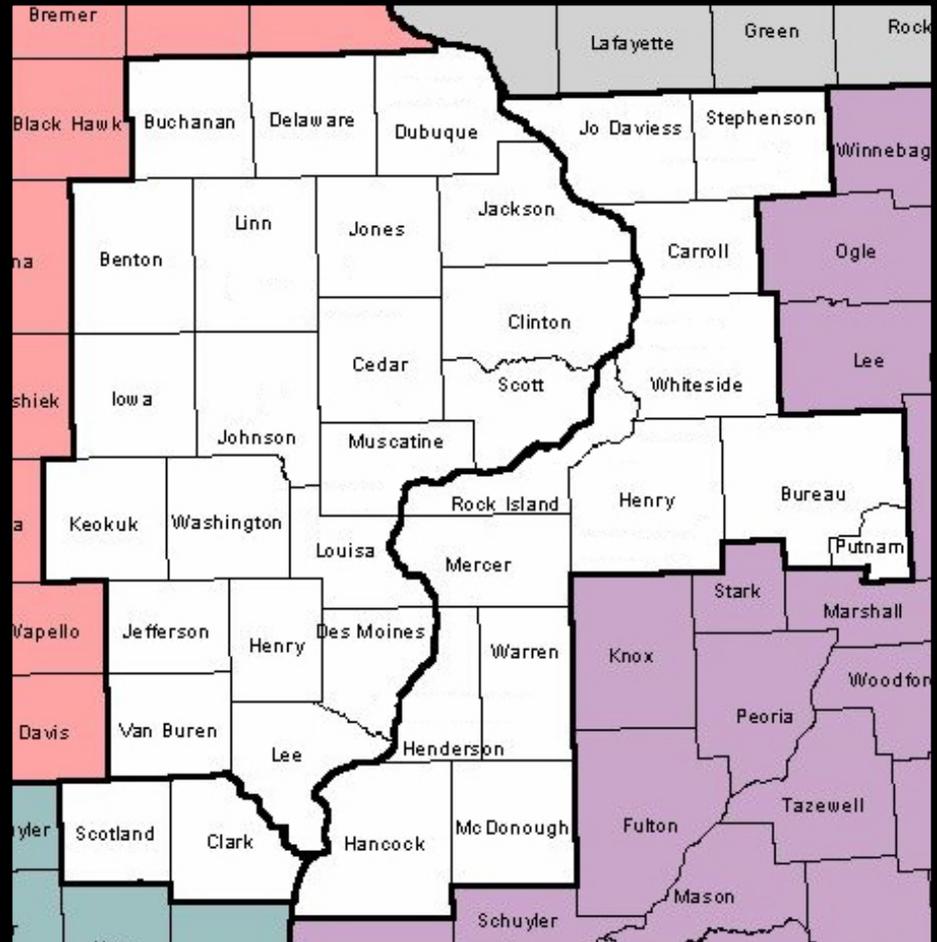
NOAA “All-Hazards” Weather Radio

- Over 750 Stations
- In all 50 states
- About 90% of US covered so far



So what about our local office?

- Responsible for 36 counties
- Located at the Davenport Municipal Airport
- 24/7



Day-to-Day, we...

- Collect Data
- Issue Forecasts
- Issue Warnings
- Operate NOAA Weather Radio



Day-to-Day: Collecting Data

- Cooperative Observers
- Upper Air
- River Stages
- Observations
- Radar



Day-to-Day: Issuing Forecasts

- Aviation
 - Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Moline
- Short Term
 - 1-6 hour forecast
- Hazardous Weather Outlook
 - Daily
 - Hazardous weather potential for the next 7 days
- 7-Day forecast
 - Text
 - Graphical
 - Numerical
 - Digital

Day-to-Day: Issuing Warnings

- Watches
- Advisories
- Warnings



- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Flooding
- Winter Weather

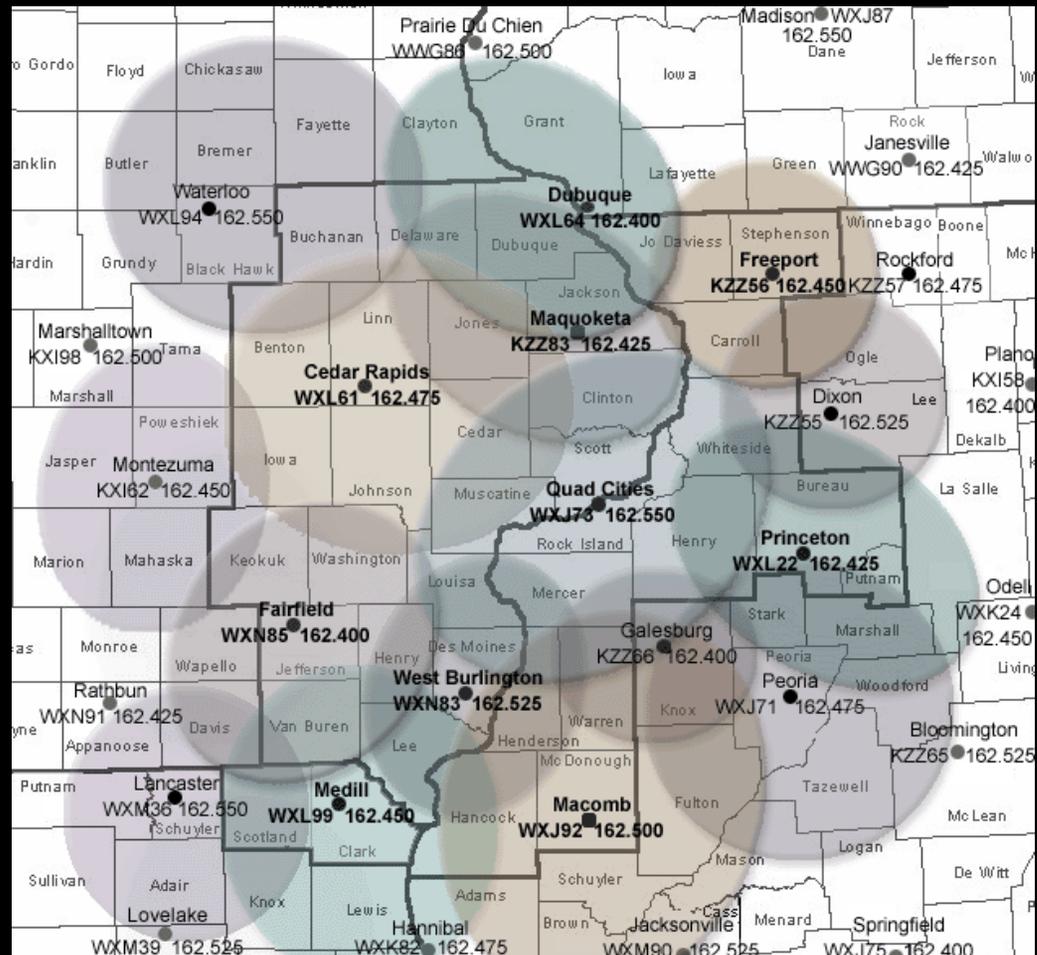
Day-to-Day: NOAA All-Hazards Radio

- Public Service of NOAA
- All Hazards Warning Network, including civil emergencies such as toxic spills and Amber Alerts
- Part of the Emergency Alert System
- Continuous weather information
- Uses a special radio to receive broadcasts
- Fastest, most direct way to receive warnings
- “Smoke Detector of Severe Weather”



Day-to-Day: NOAA All-Hazards Radio

- 10 local stations
- 6 nearby stations
- Complete local coverage



In a nutshell, we turn *data* into *information*.

- Radar data into severe weather warnings
- Daily temperatures into climate trends
- Computer models into tomorrow's forecast
- Weather statistics into preparedness planning

The next frontier...

- National Digital Forecast Database
- Turning climate data into information
- Air quality initiative
- Collaborating with other agencies with mutual interests
- Community Preparedness



Consider Utica and Parsons

- **Utica:**
- F3 Tornado (est 175 mph)
- in the early evening
- Timely warnings (>20 min)
- Warnings heeded.
- Downtown struck.
- 8 fatalities.
- **Parsons:**
- F4 Tornado (est 210 mph)
- in the late afternoon
- Timely warnings (~5 min)
- Warnings heeded.
- Factory demolished.
- No injuries.





Why the difference in outcome?

- Preparedness.
- The warning process is much more than just the warning. It includes:
 - Preparedness
 - Detection and Warning
 - Communication
 - Dissemination
 - Response

Preparedness and Response are major players in any outcome.

Effective Severe Weather Strategy



3 things to take away with you:

- Buy a programmable Weather Radio
- *Plan-Practice-Monitor-Act*
- Watch/Warning/Advisory:
 - Watch - dangerous weather possible *Get set...*
 - Advisory - conditions are hazardous but should not be life threatening if appropriate actions are taken *Go!*
 - Warning - conditions are life-threatening. Take immediate action *Go!*

National Weather Service

Forecast Office in the Quad Cities