

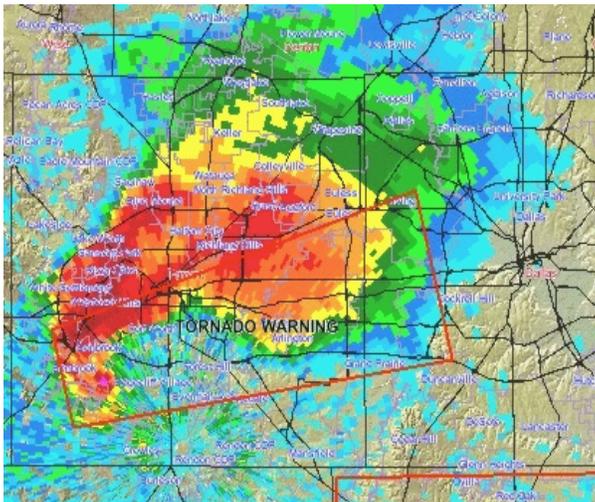
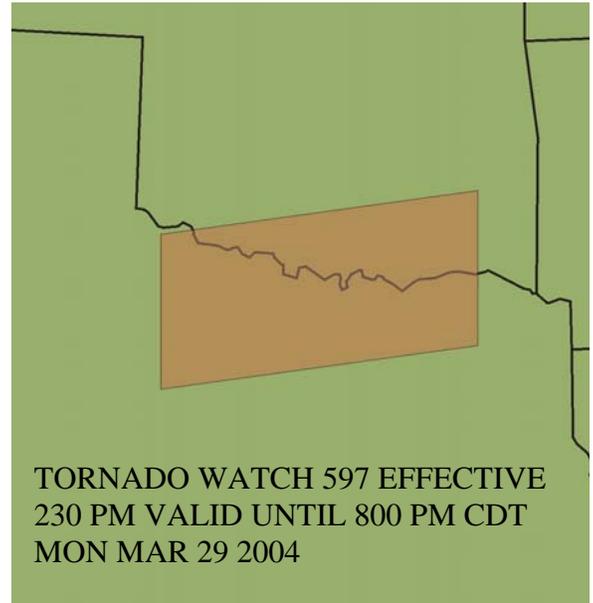
National Weather Service Fact Sheet

Watches and Warnings for North Texas



Watches

The National Weather Service issues hazardous weather watches as an advance notice that dangerous weather conditions are possible. Watches typically cover fairly large areas, i.e., portions of a state or states, and are valid for several hours. Watches for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods are usually in effect for around 6 hours on the average. By comparison, watches issued for main river floods, winter storms, and high wind conditions may be valid for 18 hours or longer. The watch does NOT indicate that dangerous weather is imminent or actually occurring. If you come under a weather watch, pay closer attention to weather developments over the next several hours. You may need to complete some basic preparedness activities, but immediate life-saving actions should not be required. A typical tornado/severe thunderstorm watch area is shown in this figure.



Warnings

The National Weather Service issues hazardous weather warnings as an urgent indication that dangerous weather conditions are occurring or are about to occur. Warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods are usually issued on a county-by-county basis. Tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings are valid generally for one hour or less, while flash flood warnings may be in effect for 2-3 hours on the average. Warnings for winter storms, river floods, and high wind conditions may be valid for 12 hours or longer. If you come under a warning, listen closely to the text of the warning message. In the warning, we will specify the location, movement, and impacts of the weather event. If the storm will be moving close to your location, then take protective action.

Advisories

Advisories are issued to address hazardous weather events which are not a direct threat to life and property, but which may result in damage or casualties if people actively put themselves in harm's way. Advisories are issued for urban and small stream flooding, snow, freezing drizzle, and assorted winter weather conditions. The valid time of an advisory can range from 1-2 hours (for urban/small stream flooding) to 12-18 hours (for winter weather events).

To learn more about the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, visit our website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd>