

	Information Updated: February of 2016
Our Alert Terms	Definitions
<b>* Use exactly as seen below *</b>	
<b>Wind Events</b>	
Awareness Alert - Strong Winds	Wind gusts between 45-54 mph for 3 hours or longer likely
Potential Alert - Damaging Winds	Wind gusts 55 mph or higher for 3 hours or longer are possible
ACTION Alert - Damaging Winds	Wind gusts to 55 mph or higher for 3 hours or longer likely <b>* Use Emergency Alert for wind gusts over 65 mph*</b>
<b>Flooding Events</b>	
Awareness Alert - Generalized Flooding	Use in less intense flooding situations
Potential Alert - Generalized Flooding	Gradual flooding is possible
ACTION Alert - Generalized Flooding	Gradual flooding is more likely or already occurring
Potential Alert - Rapid Flooding	Use when rapid flooding situations are possible
ACTION Alert - Rapid Flooding	Use when rapid flooding situations are more likely to occur or is occurring <b>* Use Emergency Alert for more significant Flooding*</b>
<b>T-Storm Events</b>	
Potential Alert - Intense T-Storm	Hail, heavy rains, frequent lightning strikes, damaging winds, tornadoes are possible

Awareness Alerts / Potential Alerts / Action Alerts / Immediate Action Alerts / Emergency Alerts

IMMEDIATE ACTION Alert - Heavy T-Storm	Small hail(less than 1 inch), heavy rains, frequent lightning strikes, winds of 40+ mph!!
IMMEDIATE ACTION Alert - Intense T-Storm	Large hail, damaging winds, heavy rains, frequent lightning strikes <b>* Use Emergency Alert for more dangerous storms only*</b>
IMMEDIATE ACTION Alert - Rotating T-Storm	A t-storm is showing signs of rotating and may pose an increased tornado threat
<b>EMERGENCY Alert - Tornadoic T-Storm</b>	Tornadoes, large hail, damaging winds, heavy rains, frequent lightning strikes
<b>Winter Events</b>	
Awareness Alert - Hazardous Traveling	Use for lighter snows, freezing rain, sleet, fog, blowing snow, black ice, flash freezing that falls below warning criteria, but still will affect travel.
Awareness Alert - Dangerous Traveling	No unnecessary traveling advised by this office – this can also be used in combination with others
Potential Alert - Heavy Snow	Heavy snow may have a significant impact on travel, but will not be accompanied by significant wind. 6 inches or more expected in a shorter period on time.
ACTION Alert - Heavy Snow	Heavy snow will have a significant impact on travel, but will not be accompanied by significant wind. 6 inches or more expected in a shorter period on time.
Awareness Alert - Lake Snows	Use for lighter lake effect snow events that will affect travel. Generally over a 3 inch snowfall.
Potential Alert - Heavy Lake Snows	Heavy lake effect snow of 6 inches or more is possibly. Look at amount of time snow will fall. If over an extended period of time, then an Awareness Notification could be used.
ACTION Alert - Heavy Lake Snows	Heavy lake effect snow of 6 inches or more is likely to occur. Look at amount of time snow will fall. If over an extended period of time, then an Awareness alert could be used.

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Potential Alert - Severe Icing	Accumulations of ¼ “or more of ice is possible and may cause damage to trees and power lines. Wind speeds also need to be looked at during these events!
ACTION Alert - Severe Icing	Accumulations of ¼ “or more of ice is expected and will likely cause damage to trees and power lines. Wind speeds also need to be looked at during these events! <b>* Use Emergency Alert for “Ice Storm” Events Only*</b>
Potential Alert - Heavy Snow / Icing	Significant amounts of snow, sleet, and freezing rain is possible. Must be a combination and not just one.
ACTION Alert - Heavy Snow / Icing	Significant amounts of snow, sleet, and freezing rain is likely to occur. Must be a combination and not just one.
Potential Alert - Blowing Snow	Significant wind driven snow that reduces visibility greatly causing major drifting and will greatly affect traveling conditions is a possibility. Blowing snow may be <u>lighter</u> snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind. Monitor snow density carefully to determine the extent of the blowing around factor
ACTION Alert - Blowing Snow	Significant wind driven snow that reduces visibility greatly causing major drifting and will greatly affect traveling conditions is likely to occur. Blowing snow may be <u>lighter</u> snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind. Monitor snow density carefully to determine the extent of the blowing around factor.
Potential Alert - Heavy Wind Driven Snow	Heavy snow accumulations in combination with winds of greater than 20 mph and less than 35 mph (above this consider Blizzard Storm Watches) is possible. This will likely cause significant blowing and drifting snow and poor visibility. In general, during a heavy snow watch, freezing rain and sleet are not expected.
ACTION Alert - Heavy Wind Driven Snow	Heavy snow accumulations in combination with winds of greater than 20 mph and less than 35 mph (above this consider Blizzard Storm Watches) is likely. This will likely cause significant blowing and drifting snow and poor visibility. In general, during a heavy snow watch, freezing rain and sleet are not expected.
Potential Alert - Blizzard	Winds of 35 mph or greater along with considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than one-quarter mile for three or more hours is possible.

<b>EMERGENCY Alert - Blizzard</b>	Winds of 35 mph or greater along with considerable falling and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than one-quarter mile for three or more hours is likely to occur.
<b>Marine Events</b>	
Potential Alert - Waterspouts	Issue when there is a higher threat for waterspouts
IMMEDIATE ACTION Alert - Waterspouts	Issue when reports of actual waterspouts have been sighted or conditions are extremely high for waterspouts to form.
IMMEDIATE ACTION - Boaters	Can be used for thunderstorm activity within the near shore waters
ACTION Alert - Gale Force Winds	Winds on Lake Ontario will range from 39-54 mph producing significant wave action.
ACTION Alert - Storm Force Winds	Winds on Lake Ontario will range from 55-73+ mph producing major wave action.
Potential Alert - Lakeside Flood / Erosion	Significant flooding and or erosion are possible.
ACTION Alert - Lakeside Flood / Erosion	Significant flooding and or erosion are likely to occur.
<b>Temperature Events</b>	
Potential Alert - Dangerous Wind Chill	Dangerous wind chills of -25 F or lower is possible for an extended period of time are possible.
ACTION Alert - Dangerous Wind Chill	Dangerous wind chills of -25 F or lower is expected for an extended period of time are likely to occur.
Potential Alert - Dangerous Cold	Dangerous cold can cause health issues or death. Temperatures without wind chill will reach -20 F or lower are only possible.

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ACTION Alert - Dangerous Cold	Dangerous cold can cause health issues or death. Temperatures without wind chill will reach -20 F or lower are likely to occur.
Potential Alert - Dangerous Heat	Dangerous heat can cause health issues or death. Combination of high temps above 90 F and high amounts of humidity creating actual feel like temps over 100 F.
ACTION Alert - Dangerous Heat	Dangerous heat can cause health issues or death. Combination of high temps above 90 F and high amounts of humidity creating actual feel like temps over 100 F.
<b>MISC.</b>	
Awareness Alert - Special Weather Advisement	Can be used in any type of situation to alert / update the public.