

## **Safety Facts About High Winds**

High winds can occur during a severe thunderstorm, with a strong weather system, or can flow down a mountain. When winds are sustained at 40-50 mph, isolated wind damage is possible.

Widespread significant wind damage can occur with higher wind speeds. During strong thunderstorms, straight line wind speeds can exceed 100 mph. High winds can blow



objects around and pose a significant threat to your safety. Understanding the risks can help you prepare for these events.

Compared to hurricanes or winter storms, a thunderstorm is relatively small. The typical thunderstorm is about 15 miles in diameter and generally lasts about 30 minutes. However, despite their small size, all thunderstorms are potentially dangerous. When a thunderstorm reaches "severe" limits, it has intensified to the point that it will produce wind gusts of at least 58 mph and/or hail 1 inch in diameter (about the size of a quarter) or larger.

- **High Wind Warning: Take Action!** Sustained, strong winds with even stronger gusts are happening. Seek shelter. If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheels and slow down. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.
- **High Wind Watch: Be Prepared!** Sustained, strong winds are possible. Secure loose outdoor items and adjust plans as necessary so you're not caught outside. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.
- **Wind Advisory: Take Action!** Strong winds are occurring but are not so strong as to warrant a High Wind Warning. Objects that are outdoors should be secured and caution should be taken if driving. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.



## **Safety Facts About Hail**



As a thunderstorm grows, updrafts will push water droplets into a region of the atmosphere which is below the freezing temperature. These water droplets collide with other droplets just before freezing, which is why some hailstones can grow to

several inches in diameter. The stronger the updraft associated with a thunderstorm the larger the hail associated with the storm will be. Although the typical size of hail in Georgia is approximately one to two inches in diameter, it is not difficult to imagine the damage or injuries, which can be caused by hail when you consider that hail, may fall at speeds greater than 100 mph.

When a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING is issued, large hail may pelt you, your home, your pets, and your property. These warnings are issued when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by radar, or reported by a reliable source. You should move to a safe place immediately. If time permits, consider moving vehicles into sheltered areas (garages, carports, etc.) and provide shelter for pets



**IF SEVERE WEATHER OCCURS IN YOUR AREA:**  
**remain in safe shelter until the storms have passed.**

Hail Size Chart	
Pea	0.25"
Penny/Dime	0.75"
Quarter	1.00"
Half Dollar	1.25"
Golfball	1.75"
Tennis Ball	2.50"
Baseball	2.75"
Grapefruit	4.00"

- Visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for more weather severe weather safety information.