Stony Brook University

SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter October 2015

Severe Weather

Various weather conditions have different levels of risk. The National Weather Service (NWS) uses a multi-tier system of weather statements to notify the public of threatening weather conditions. In order of increasing risk, these statements are:

Outlook - A hazardous weather outlook is issued daily to indicate that a hazardous weather event may occur in the next several days. The outlook will include information about potential severe thunderstorms, heavy rain or flooding, winter weather, extremes of heat or cold, etc., that may develop over the next 7 days with emphasis on the first 24 hours of the forecast.

Advisory - An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent or likely. Advisories are for less serious conditions than warnings, which cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

Watch - A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible. People should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.

Warning - A warning is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action. For example:

- **A Severe Thunderstorm Warning** A severe thunderstorm contains large damaging hail of 3/4 inch diameter or larger, and/or damaging winds greater than **58** mph or greater.
- **(Flash) Flood Watch** - Conditions are favorable for (flash) flooding in & close to the watch area. These watches are issued by the Forecast Office & are issued 6-24 hours in advance of expected flood potential.
- **Flash flood Warning** -Flash flooding is occurring, imminent or highly likely. A flash flood is a flood that occurs within 6 hours of excessive rainfall and that poses a threat to life and/or property. These warnings are **generally in effect for up to 6 hours.**
- **Flood Warning** - General or area flooding of streets, low-lying areas, urban storm drains, creeks and small streams is occurring, imminent, or highly likely. Flood warnings are issued for flooding that occurs more than 6 hours after the excessive rainfall. These warnings are issued on a county by county basis by the local Forecast Office and are generally in effect for 6 to 12 hours.

Date:	
Department:	
Supervisor *(please print)*:	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: ***Please Print Clearly***	*Signature*

Environmental Health and Safety

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.