A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch
This means conditions are favorable for the development of a severe thunderstorm or a tornado.

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning
This means a severe thunderstorm has actually formed and is threatening the warned area. In a severe thunderstorm you can expect sudden wind reversals, a sharp rise in wind speed, a drop in temperatures, heavy rain, hail, and lightning.

A Tornado Warning
This means a tornado has been sighted or detected on radar in the warned area and that there is immediate danger. You should seek immediate shelter.

Here's What To Do When You Hear a Tornado Warning

- *In Motor Homes, Camping Trailers or Mobile Homes:*
  Get out immediately and seek the best available shelter. Lie flat in a ditch or ravine and shield your head with your arms.
- *In Your Car or Truck:*
  If time permits, move at a right angle to the path of the tornado. Otherwise, leave the vehicle and seek shelter in a nearby ditch or ravine, under a bridge, or in a culvert.
- *Outdoors:*
  If outdoors, with no shelter available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or ravine, and shield head with arms.
- *In a Boat:*
  Travel to the closest shore as quickly as possible. Get out of the boat, lie flat in a nearby ravine or valley, and shield head with arms.
- *In a Park or Recreation Area:*
  Due to the large number of people who visit park areas throughout the summer months, park personnel may not be able to issue storm warnings to individuals camping or using the park for the day. Park rangers and deputy sheriffs will make every effort to inform visitors of the threatening weather situations. Tune your radio or TV to a local station, or your weather radio frequency, to monitor weather conditions if a storm seems imminent.

Recreation areas and state park areas have no designated shelters for use in severe weather. Some protection may be afforded by crouching near the central interior walls of restroom and shower buildings made of masonry or block construction.

However, regardless of the size of the park, these structures will not accommodate all visitors. Leaving the park area when severe weather threatens may be advisable, if time permits. Please consult a park ranger for further options of protection against the threat of severe weather.

General Tips
Lightning is a killer. If possible, get inside a large building, and keep away from electrical appliances when the storm is overhead. Outdoors, get away from and avoid open water, hilltops, open fields, beaches, isolated trees in open areas, wire fences, metal pipes or rails. Get off of, and away from, motorcycles and bicycles. If in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. In open areas, go to a ravine or valley, but be alert for flash floods. If you are hopelessly isolated in a level field of prairie and feel your hair stand on end (indicating lightning is about to strike) drop to knees, and bend forward putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

Keep fresh batteries in your flashlight and portable radio at all times during the severe weather season. In addition, it is strongly advised that you have your radio tuned to one of the stations previously mentioned under the General Information section of this guide.