

12 Things You Need To Know: Severe Weather Outlooks (pt1)

Outlooks involve uncertainty about storm development, timing, location and threats. They are NOT precise forecasts.

You are not guaranteed to see severe storms just because you're in an outlook area.

Outlooks assume storms will actually form. Sometimes they don't. This doesn't mean the outlook was bad

Outlooks come from a variety of sources. Not everyone uses the same terms, categories, colors, or thresholds.

The SPC outlook categories – slight, moderate and high risk – are based primarily on the number of reports that they expect to receive, not just on the severity of the storms.

Slight risk does not mean slightly severe.



12 Things You Need To Know: Severe Weather Outlooks (pt2)

A moderate or high risk doesn't always mean tornado outbreak. These are sometimes issued for widespread damaging wind and hail events.

You can have significant tornadoes outside of moderate or high risk areas.

A higher risk area near you doesn't necessarily mean your storms will be any less significant.

If an outlook mentions baseball size and tornadoes, it doesn't mean that everyone in the risk area will see baseball size hail and tornadoes. It just means it's possible.

Outlooks change as the event gets closer. To be sure you are working with the most current information, check for updates, especially on the day of the event. The outlook you saw at 6:00 AM may change significantly by 6:00 PM.

Most big tornado days are preceded by outlooks days in advance. Use this extra time to get ready. And share the information with your family and friends so they can be ready, too.