

## Driving – *Summer Weather Terminology*

- **Excessive Heat.** Alerts are issued in the following categories:
    - Advisory.* Heat index above 105 °F (41 °C) is anticipated.
    - Watch.* Conditions are favorable for the development of heat indices in excess of 105 °F (41 °C) during daytime hours in combination with nighttime low temperatures of 80 °F (27 °C) or higher, for 2 consecutive days.
    - Warning.* Heat index equals or exceeds 120 °F (49 °C) for 3 hours or longer.
  - **Severe Thunderstorm.** Alerts are issued in the following categories:
    - Watch.* Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the designated area; usually in effect for several hours, but not more than 6 hours.
    - Warning.* A thunderstorm has produced hail 3/4-in (2 cm) or larger in diameter and/or winds equal to or exceeding 58 mph (93 kph).
  - **Flooding.** Floods usually take 12 hours or more to develop. Alerts are issued in the following categories:
    - Flood Watch.* Flooding is possible in or near the designated area. Individuals should be alert and ready to take action.
    - Flood Warning.* A flood is imminent or has been reported at a certain station or river basin.
- \*\* Flash Floods.** Flash floods take less than 6 hours to develop. Alerts are issued in the following categories:
- Flash Flood Watch.* Flash flood conditions are possible in or near the designated area. Individuals should be alert and ready to take action.
  - Flash Flood Warning.* Flash flooding is imminent. Those in the affected area should take immediate action.
- **Fog.**
    - Fog Advisory.* Dense fog covers a widespread area and reduces visibility to 1/4-mile (.40 km) or less.
  - **Tornado.** Alerts are issued in the following categories:
    - Watch.* Conditions are favorable for the development of tornados in and close to the designated area; usually in effect for several hours with 6 hours being the most common.
    - Warning.* A tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by spotters. Issued by the National Weather Service.
  - **Wind.** A Wind Advisory means sustained winds of 30 mph (48 kph) or greater are expected to last for one hour or longer, or gusts to 45 mph (72 kph) or higher are expected for any duration.