

WARNING & ADVISORY CRITERIA

WFO Chicago/Romeoville, IL (LOT)

Last Updated – 8/27/09

Warning Type	Warning Criteria	Advisory Type	Advisory Criteria
Blizzard	Sustained wind/frequent gusts ≥ 35 mph & visibility $< 1/4$ mile in snow/blowing snow for 3 hours or more	Winter Weather (snow and blowing snow)	wind 25-34 mph and visibility occasionally $\leq 1/4$ mile from falling and blowing snow
Winter Storm (snow)	≥ 6 " in ≤ 12 hours/ ≥ 8 " in ≤ 24 hours	Winter Weather (snow)	usually 3" to 5", 2" to 4" optional
Ice Storm	Ice accumulation $\geq 1/4$ "	Freezing Rain	ice accumulations $< 1/4$ "
Lake Effect Snow	≥ 6 " in ≤ 12 hours/ ≥ 8 " in ≤ 24 hours	Lake Effect Snow	usually 3" to 5", 2" to 4" optional
Winter Storm (sleet)	Sleet accumulation $\geq 1/2$ "	Winter Weather (sleet)	Sleet accumulation $< 1/2$ "
Wind Chill	WC ≤ -30 °F	Wind Chill	WC ≤ -20 °F
		Dense Fog	widespread or localized visibility $\leq 1/4$ mile
Excessive Heat	Chicago/Cook County: 1) 3 consecutive days peak Heat Index 100-105°F, 2) 2 consecutive days with peak Heat Index 105-110°F, 3) 1 day with peak Heat Index 110°F or greater	Heat	All areas: Max H I ≥ 105 °F (Consider upgrading to warning if conditions persist 4 days or more.)
	Elsewhere: Max H I ≥ 110 °F and Min H I ≥ 75 °F for ≥ 48 hours		
Freeze	widespread temps ≤ 32 °F during growing season	Frost	widespread frost in growing season
		Freezing Fog	widespread ice from freezing fog
High Wind	sustained winds ≥ 40 mph gusts ≥ 58 mph	Wind	sustained winds ≥ 30 mph gusts ≥ 45 mph
Red Flag	Sustained 20 foot winds 20 mph or greater, afternoon RH $< 25\%$, 10 hour fuel moisture $\leq 8\%$		