

Hail and High Winds

Hail and wind are parts of thunderstorms and can become hazardous as pieces of the storm or in combination with each other. Damaging wind can occur without thunderstorms as well. Hail is pellets of frozen rain that can range in size from pea to softballs (1 cm – 10 cm diameter) or larger. Damage to plants, vehicles, and windows is common when hail size exceeds the size of an American nickel (21 mm). Hail is ice falling from the sky, so the chances for humans and pets to be injured by hail increases with the size and volume of hail – imagine being hit by a thrown ice cube!

Wind, although gentle on a calm sunny day, can increase in speed and become damaging to anything outside. When winds are sustained at 40-50 miles per hour, isolated wind damage is possible. A severe thunderstorm is defined when wind gusts have the potential to exceed 58 mph and hail could be 1 inch (25 mm) or larger, a partnership that could result in damage to landscaping, homes, and vehicles – along with people and pets! Learn more about hail, winds, and thunderstorms

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm>.

Information about the types, detection, and forecasting for damaging winds from a great source

<https://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/wind/>

