

Fast Facts

- About 1,800 thunderstorms occur at one time around the world or 16 million a year!
- There are 55 to 60 deaths and about 400 injuries related to lightning.
- Lightning causes over \$1 Billion in damage a year.
- Floods and Flash Flood are the #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms, causing over 90 deaths a year.
- Hail can be as large as softballs, over 5 inches in diameter and cause over \$1 Billion in damage every year.
- Downbursts, or a pocket of rapidly descending air, can cause as much damage as a tornado.

Be READY

Go to ready.gov for more information on how to be prepared.

What does it mean?

Severe Thunderstorm: classified as a storm having 58 mph winds or greater, hail of one inch or larger and having produced a funnel cloud or tornado.

Watch: issued when conditions are favorable for development with 12 hours. Issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK.

Warning: issued when Doppler radar or spotters have indicated a storm meeting the warning criteria.

PDS Watch/Warning: stands for Particularly Dangerous Situation and is generally attached as a rider to watch or warning statements when the threat for damage is enhanced.



Montgomery County, Pennsylvania
Department of Public Safety
Office of Emergency Preparedness

Severe Weather Safety Guide Severe Thunderstorm



For the latest weather information, go to
www.weather.gov/phi

For other information and safety tips from the
Montgomery County DPS, go to
www.dps.montcopa.org

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Every thunderstorm needs three ingredients:

- **Moisture:** To form clouds and rain.
- **Unstable Air:** for warm air to rise rapidly and, sometimes, violently.
- **Lift:** Generally ahead of warm or cold fronts, sea breezes or mountains.

Storm Safety

If you hear thunder or see lightning, seek shelter in a sturdy structure, away from windows. If you are away from shelter, squat low on the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and put your head between your knees.

Give us a shout!

Contact Kevin Wagner
Municipal Planning
Specialist

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Don't Forget!!

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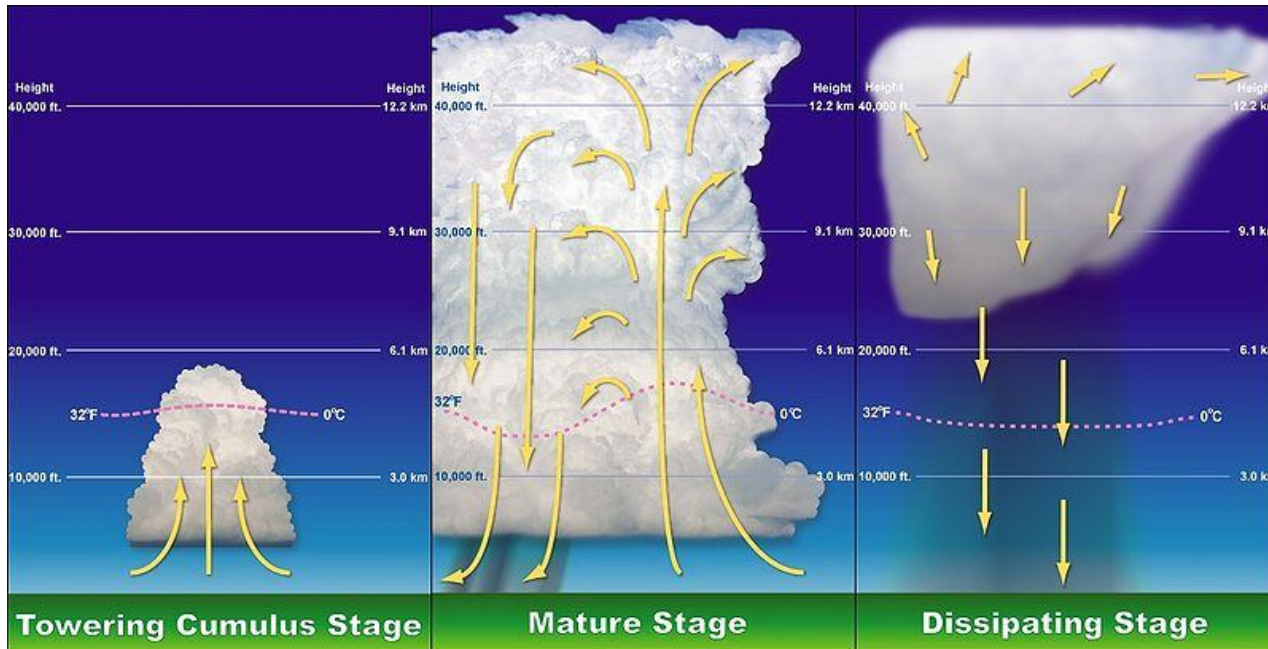


Diagram courtesy of NOAA/wikipedia.org

Want to help?

Become a SkyWarn Storm Spotter. Help the NWS and MontCo DPS track storms.