

December 15, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEVERE WEATHER EXPECTED-CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE AT 3:00 PM TODAY due to the elevated risk of severe thunderstorms expected to move through Webster City this afternoon and widespread high winds with gusts of 60 to 70 mph. The National Weather Service advises that winds in thunderstorms could reach 80 mph or more and possibilities for a few tornadoes. Conditions could change very rapidly today with little reaction time or warning as storms approach. Monitor weather conditions closely with safe shelter available and nearby.

Power Outages are expected to occur. Please take any necessary precautions and make preparations for the possibility of extended power outages. Given the expected weather conditions, crews may not be able to make repairs until the severe weather conditions subside and may only respond to emergencies. We would like to ask for your patience and understanding if power outages and other issues occur during this weather event.

The City's Police, Fire, Public Works, and Electric Line Department have prepared their equipment to respond to emergencies. Please monitor the City's Facebook page for any updates. Please stay safe and avoid any unnecessary travel.

Wind Gust Speed & Timing Today December 15, 2021 5:17 AM
 Strongest Winds in the Late Afternoon and Evening But Windy All Day

Key Points

- Windy much of today, but significant gusts increase in the afternoon through the evening. Diminishing somewhat very late tonight and early Thursday morning.
- Non-thunderstorm sustained speeds of 30 to 40 mph with peak gusts of 60 to 70 mph. Higher speeds possible in and near thunderstorms.
- Travel will become extremely difficult in the afternoon and evening, especially for high profile vehicles (extreme danger to semis, buses, etc)
- Impacts include tree and power line damage, power outages, elevated fire danger, and blowing dust.

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

	12/15 Wed						12/16 Thu			Maximum	
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am		9am
Ames	21	37	38	53	69	69	53	38	31	26	69
Carroll	28	41	48	58	67	68	54	38	31	26	68
Creston	30	43	48	66	69	63	45	37	28	23	69
Des Moines	25	38	38	58	70	69	54	37	29	23	70
Estherville	21	29	36	41	54	61	56	40	35	31	61
Fort Dodge	23	37	40	54	68	68	53	38	32	26	68
Marshalltown	26	39	40	53	64	66	54	40	31	26	66
Mason City	21	35	35	47	62	64	58	44	35	29	64
Ottumwa	23	40	39	44	53	54	44	35	28	23	54
Waterloo	25	38	37	45	61	63	53	40	32	28	63

Current Forecast Peak Wind Gusts in mph

Today's Severe Weather Outlook December 15, 2021 4:58 AM
 Moderate Risk (4/5) for Severe Weather - Main Threats Damaging Winds and Tornadoes

Timing & Location

- ⌚ Storms rapidly moving west to east across central Iowa 4pm-8pm

Actions

- 📱 Be weather aware and ready to act! Have multiple ways to receive warning information. Reaction time may be minimal due to the extremely fast storm motion. Storms could move through a typical Iowa county in only 20 minutes.

Severe Threats

- 🌪️ **Damaging Wind Gusts**
Storms may enhance strong non-thunderstorm winds already occurring with gusts to 80+ mph possible.
- 🌩️ **Few Tornadoes**
Storms may enhance strong non-thunderstorm winds already occurring

