



Marine Corps Installations – East
Regional METOC Center
MCAS Cherry Point, NC

**Standardized Weather Warnings
Definitions**

Updated: 25 June 2012

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MCIE Standardized Weather Warnings

Warning	Criteria
Local Wind Warning	Sustained winds 18-33 knots or gusts to 25 knots are forecast
Gale Warning	Sustained winds of 34-47 knots are forecast for harbors, inland waters, ocean areas, airfields and installations.
Storm Warning	Sustained wind of 48 knots or greater are forecasted for harbors, inland waters, ocean areas, airfields and installations.
Tropical Depression	Warning for land, harbor, inland water and ocean areas for sustained wind of 33 knots or less/ no specified time frame.
Tropical Storm	Warning for land, harbor, inland water and ocean areas for sustained wind of 34-63 knots / no specified time frame.
Hurricane	Warning for land, harbor, inland water and ocean areas for sustained wind of 64 knots or greater/ no specified time frame.
Thunderstorm Condition II	Destructive wind and accompanying thunderstorms are within 25 Nautical Miles or expected within 6 hours. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, and sudden wind shifts are possible.
Thunderstorm Condition I	Destructive wind and accompanying thunderstorms are within 10 Nautical Miles or expected within 1 hour. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, and sudden wind shifts are possible.
Severe Thunderstorm Condition II	Severe thunderstorms are defined as having wind speeds of greater than 50 knots, hail with diameter greater than 3/4" and or tornadoes. Destructive winds accompanying the severe thunderstorms are within 25 NM, or expected within 6 hours. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, sudden wind shifts and tornadic activity are possible. Additionally this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.
Severe Thunderstorm Condition I	Severe thunderstorms are defined as having gusts of wind greater than 50 knots, hail with diameter greater than 3/4" and or tornadoes. Destructive winds accompanying the severe thunderstorms are within 10 NM, or expected within 1 hour. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, sudden wind shifts and

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	tornadic activity are possible. Additionally this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.
Lightning Warning	Lightning is imminent or occurring within 5 NM of the installation.
Tornado Watch	Tornados are within 25 NM or expected within 6 hours. Additionally this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.
Tornado Warning	Tornados are within 10 NM or expected within 1 hour. Additionally this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.
Light to Moderate Snow Warning	Accumulation of up to 2" of snow in 12 hours; or up to 4" in 24 hours.
Heavy Snow Warning	An accumulation of 4 or more inches of snow is expected within 12 hours or 6 or more inches in 24 hours which may be accompanied by freezing rain or sleet.
Light to Moderate Freezing Precipitation Warning	Up to ¼" accumulation.
Heavy Freezing Precipitation Warning	Greater than ¼" accumulation.
Frost/Freeze warning	Any time temperatures are forecasted to fall below 32F.
Hard Freeze Warning	Temperatures are forecast to be below 32F for more than 24 hours or the temperature is forecast to fall below 20F
Gale/Storm/Tropical Storm/Hurricane	
Condition V	Destructive winds are possible within 96 hours
Condition IV	Destructive winds are possible within 72 hours.
Condition III	Destructive winds are possible within 48 hours.
Condition II	Destructive winds are anticipated within 24 hours.
Condition I	Destructive winds are imminent or anticipated within 12 hours.
Condition IC	Destructive winds are imminent or anticipated within 6 hours.
Condition IE	Destructive winds are being experienced.
Condition IR	Destructive winds are no longer being experienced
Snow Storm/Ice Storm	
Condition V	Threat of storm has passed, return to normal operations.
Condition IV	Heavy Snow/Ice Storm is anticipated within 48 hours.
Condition III	Heavy Snow/Ice Storm is anticipated

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	within 24 hours.
Condition II	Heavy Snow/Ice Storm is anticipated within 12 hours.
Condition I	Heavy Snow/Ice Storm is imminent.

