



City of Branson

Jennifer Langford, MBA/MIS – Communications Manager

110 West Maddux | Branson, MO 65616

BransonMo.gov | 417.337.0017 direct

JLangford@BransonMO.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 07, 2017

Branson Fire Chief, Ted Martin

417.243.2790

MEDIA RELEASE

ELEVATED RISK for Severe Weather in Branson and Surrounding Areas This Evening

Branson, MO (Thursday, March 7, 2017) – The National Weather Service – Springfield and the Storm Prediction Center in Norman Oklahoma has **increased the potential for severe weather to ELEVATED**. There is a potential for severe storms including **supercells with all modes of severe weather including large hail, damaging winds, and frequent lightning**. There is also a **potential for fast moving night time tornadoes**.

The **greatest risk for severe weather appears to be in SW and Western Missouri**, essentially either side of a line from Joplin to Sedalia. Some isolated thunderstorms may develop across the **area between 6:00-11:00PM this evening, with a stronger line of thunderstorms** in SE Kansas by 11:00PM and rapidly moving east/southeast. Timing estimates place this line of storms in **the Branson area around midnight to 2AM**. It is reasonable to expect Thunderstorm and or Tornado Watches to be issued later today with subsequent Warnings as weather develops.

Expected hazards include:

- Hail to the size of golf balls.
- Wind gusts up to 70 mph.
- Potential for nighttime tornadoes.
- Frequent lightning.

Areas to our north continue to be in Wind Advisory and Red Flag Warning (fire danger) this afternoon. Winds have sustained 15-20 mph today in Branson with the highest wind gust reported at 38 mph around noon today.

As always:

1. We will staff the EOC if storms develop with potential to impact the Branson area.
2. **BE INFORMED!**
 - a. Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radios for instant warnings
 - b. Use local broadcast media for live information
 - c. The City of Branson Communications Manager will update multiple social media sites including Facebook and Twitter at the following:

- i. www.facebook.com/CityBranson
 - ii. www.facebook.com/Branson.Missouri.9
 - iii. www.facebook.com/BransonPolice
 - iv. www.facebook.com/Branson-MO-Fire-Rescue-379471505460771/
 - v. www.twitter.com/CityofBranson
 - vi. www.twitter.com/BransonPD
 - d. BransonALERTS and Smartphone Apps
 - e. City of Branson Newsflash at www.BransonMO.gov
 - f. We will also share to-the-minute updates to local resources including www.HometownDailyNews.com and www.facebook.com/BransonNW
- 3. Know Where to Go:**
- a. For shelter at work, home, school, go to a location in the lower-most interior area as possible placing as many walls between you and the storm.
 - b. This includes sheltering for severe thunderstorms producing damaging winds
- 4. Report Severe Weather or Damages** to be forwarded to Emergency Management Partners and the NWS
- a. E-Mail BransonEMA@bransonmo.gov
 - b. Branson EOC at (417) 337-8584 (When EOC is Open)

For additional safety tips about severe weather, fire safety, or to learn more about “BransonALERTS,” contact the **City of Branson Fire Department at (417) 243-2790 or online at www.bransonmo.gov.**

Media inquiries related to this content may be directed to Jennifer Langford, Communications Manager, City of Branson at JLangford@BransonMO.gov or by calling 417.337.0017.

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About the City of Branson, Missouri:

Located in Southwest Missouri, the City of Branson is committed to its citizens and to those who visit here, to ensure a safe and environmentally sound community. We will work as a team to maintain and promote the growth of our City, and to provide professional, courteous service to all through fair and open communication. We look to tomorrow, remembering yesterday, dedicated to excellence today.