



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada



*Environment Canada's  
Meteorological Service:*

## YOUR EYE ON WEATHER

**Come rain or shine,  
Canadians love their weather!**

That's where Environment Canada's Meteorological Service comes in – providing Canadians with access to vital weather and environmental information and warnings 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We maintain a Canada-wide observation network that monitors changes in weather, climate, water, ice and air. This network generates the data that is the foundation of weather and environmental prediction.

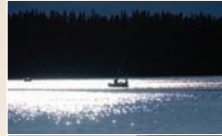
Our staff of expert meteorologists, scientists and technicians work around the clock to ensure that Canadians are always informed.

Environment Canada is your **official** source of weather warnings. We are also the principal scientific authority for standards, information and advice on the past, present and future of the atmosphere, hydrosphere (lakes and rivers) and cryosphere (snow and ice).

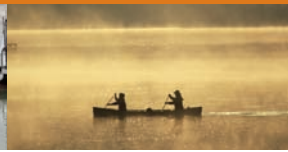


### What we do...

- ▶ Provide weather forecasts and severe weather warnings;
- ▶ Provide the UV Index and Air Quality Health Index forecasts;
- ▶ Monitor atmospheric conditions and the quantity of water in Canadian lakes and rivers; and
- ▶ Forecast ice and wave conditions on navigable oceans and inland waters.



Canada 



# HOW THE WEATHER GETS TO YOU

## Weatheroffice: Your one-stop weather source on the Web

Environment Canada's Weatheroffice connects directly with Canadians in order to give you the most accurate, up-to-date forecasts and weather information.

On the Weatheroffice website ([www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)), you will find:

- ▶ Severe weather and general weather warnings, radar and satellite images, and marine forecasts and warnings;
- ▶ The seven-day extended local forecast, including current conditions, temperature, humidity, air pressure, wind speed and direction;
- ▶ The daily UV Index and the local Air Quality Health Index forecasts for Canadian cities; and
- ▶ Much more!

## Weatheradio Canada: Broadcasting to you



Weatheradio Canada broadcasts weather information and provides weather warning bulletins 24 hours a day in many areas across the country. It is also the only service that will wake you up when severe weather occurs!

Special Weatheradio receivers can be purchased as a single unit, and can also be found in many walkie-talkies and two-way communications products sold in Canadian stores.

## Weather info on the go: Wireless weather information at your fingertips

On the go and need weather info quickly?

You can now receive updates on weather conditions and forecasts for your city by subscribing to Environment Canada's Weatheroffice RSS feed! To access, simply

visit [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca) and click on the RSS link at the bottom of your local Weatheroffice city page.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC) has been serving Canadians since 1871, and more than 100 years of climate data (7 billion observations) are stored in the MSC archives!



## Severe weather: Prepare yourself

Helping Canadians protect themselves, their families and their property from the hazards of severe weather is an important part of Environment Canada's mandate.

The Department issues warnings, watches and special statements for severe weather. These are available through [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca) and on Weatheradio, as well as through traditional media. These bulletins cover all severe weather conditions – hurricanes, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, snowstorms, extreme cold and a variety of other occurrences.



## Weather tips to help keep you and your family safe

### *Summer storm and tornado safety*

When any type of severe weather threatens, take shelter indoors immediately, away from doors and windows. If you are swimming or boating, head to shore at the first sign of bad weather.

If you find yourself caught outside in a tornado:

- ▶ Lie flat in a ditch, ravine or other low-lying area and shield your head with your arms;
- ▶ Beware of flying debris; and
- ▶ Use caution around post-storm hazards such as damaged or weakened structures and downed power lines.

## The lightning storm 30-30 rule

If you get caught in a thunderstorm, count the seconds between a lightning flash and the peal of thunder that follows.

- ▶ If you count **30** seconds or less, the storm is dangerously close. Find shelter in a house, car or low-lying place.
- ▶ Remain sheltered for **30** minutes after the thunder stops.



## Before leaving the house...

### *Check the UV Index and Air Quality Health Index*

Overexposure to the sun and air pollution can, if not taken seriously, cause health problems for you and your family.

Here are a few tips Environment Canada would like you to remember...

- ▶ If you need to be in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., wear long pants, long sleeves and a wide-brimmed hat to protect your skin from sunburn.
- ▶ Always protect your eyes with UVA- and UVB-rated sunglasses.
- ▶ Use a sunscreen lotion or cream of **SPF 15** or more, and apply it 20 minutes before going out.
- ▶ Protect yourself from prolonged exposure to heavy air pollution by checking [airhealth.ca](http://airhealth.ca) for the Air Quality Health Index.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The UV Index system, which informs the public about daily levels of ultraviolet radiation coming from the sun, was first developed by Environment Canada scientists and is now recognized and used all over the world.

## Interesting weather facts

- ▶ Canadians are weather nuts! Nine in ten Canadians say they make a point of checking weather forecasts at least once a day.
- ▶ On average, Environment Canada issues 1.5 million public forecasts, 12 500 warnings, 500 000 UV forecasts and 13 000 Air Quality Health Index forecasts per year.
- ▶ We provide local forecasts, warnings and alerts to over 800 communities and cities across Canada!
- ▶ On average, three to four tropical storms or hurricanes threaten Canada or its territorial waters each year.
- ▶ In delivering its weather services, the Meteorological Service of Canada uses all kinds of tools and technologies. These range from traditional thermometers and rain gauges, to state-of-the-art supercomputers, Doppler radars (a specialized form of radar used in weather forecasting) and satellite receivers.

For more on Environment Canada's weather and meteorological services, please visit:

[www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)  
[www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)  
or call: 1-800-668-6767  
TTY: 819-994-0736

