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## Alert Criteria

Updated on Dec 17, 2015

### Train Dispatchers weather alerts are based on the following criteria:

- Tornadoes predicted to affect the track.
- Wind gusts equal to or greater than 50 mph or higher (includes tropical storms and hurricanes); will include wind direction.
- Wind gusts greater than 40 mph or higher on the Moffat Tunnel Subdivision from MP 19.5 to Mile Post 20.2 (Big Ten - approximately from Foothills Road to Blue Mountain Drive).
- Floods
  - Flash flood warnings (Defined as 1"/hr or greater rainfall with 3" or more expected within three hours or less. The West Region, defined as Del Rio, Tx. to Midland, Tx., to the Texas Panhandle/New Mexico stateline straight North, is 1"/hr rates with more than 1" expected.)
  - Mainstream river flood warnings when the height of the river could reach the roadbed using elevation database from UP (where available).
- Four inches of snow or more in twelve hours or less.
- Ice of perceptible accumulation affecting road travel, tree or utility line damage.
- Temperatures above 115 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Temperatures below -10 degrees Fahrenheit (alert), Temperatures below -20 degrees Fahrenheit (warning).
- Earthquakes of magnitude of 4.5 or more with an explicit warning for 5.0 or higher (U.S.G.S. does not have a recommendation pertaining to ground shaking and track deformation) – perimeter based on [Track Inspection Manual 8.9.12](#)

### Corridor Manager/Directors weather alerts are based on the following criteria:

- Tornadoes predicted to affect the track.
- Wind gusts equal to or greater than 50 mph or higher (includes tropical storms and hurricanes); will include wind direction.
- Wind gusts greater than 40 mph or higher on the Moffat Tunnel Subdivision from MP 19.5 to Mile Post 20.2 (Big Ten - approximately from Foothills Road to Blue Mountain Drive).
- Floods
  - Flash flood warnings (Defined as 1"/hr or greater rainfall with 3" or more expected within three hours or less. The West Region, defined as Del Rio, Tx. to Midland, Tx., to the Texas Panhandle/New Mexico stateline straight North, is 1"/hr rates with more than 1" expected.)
  - Mainstream river flood warnings when the height of the river could reach the roadbed using elevation database from UP (where available).
- Four inches of snow or more in twelve hours or less.
- Ice of perceptible accumulation affecting road travel, tree or utility line damage.
- Temperatures above 115 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Temperatures below -10 degrees Fahrenheit (alert), Temperatures below -20 degrees Fahrenheit (warning).
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### Discontinued while water level is low:

- Wind gusts of 30 mph or on the Great Salt Lake Causeway; will include wind direction.
- Historically water altitude peaks annually during months of April, May and June as a result of snow melt.
- Advisory is based on current elevation of track of 4211 (min). If track is raised will alter water altitude wind advisory elevation.
  - 4196 - Current lake level
  - 4204 - Watch for increased lake level due to snow melt
  - 4206 - Institute 30 mph wind advisory
  - 4212 - Maximum recorded GSL water altitude
  - [Current Great Salt Lake Altitude](#)
  - [Historic Great Salt Lake Surface Altitude](#)

### Alert Lead Time Guidelines:

- \* Tornadoes / 20 minutes
- \* Thunderstorm Winds / 20 minutes
- \* Synoptic Winds / 2-4 hours
- \* Snow / 2-4 hours
- \* Ice / 2-4 hours
- \* Flash Flood / 20 minutes (generally issued without lead time)
- \* Earthquakes / as they occur
- \* Temperatures above 115 Fahrenheit / as it occurs
- \* Temperatures below -10 Fahrenheit / as it occurs
- \* 30 degree Temperature Change in 3 hours or less / as it occurs

No labels