

Significant Severe Weather Possible Today

May 18, 2026
5:31 AM

Key Messages

- **Scattered to numerous severe thunderstorms are EXPECTED** in our area this afternoon and tonight, **MODERATE RISK (LEVEL 4)**.
- Thunderstorms are expected to initiate this afternoon over central Kansas. The storms will quickly become severe and be capable of producing up to **baseball sized hail**, **damaging winds**, and a few **tornadoes** which may become strong. As the storms develop, they are anticipated to merge into a line, with the primary threats eventually shifting to damaging winds and heavy rainfall later in the period.

What Has Changed

- MODERATE RISK expanded Today

Next Scheduled Update

- This will be the final issuance

MODERATE RISK

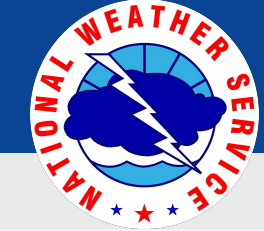
Widespread severe storms likely.

Long-lived and intense storms likely.

Have multiple ways to get NWS warnings and seek shelter immediately when warnings are issued for your location.

weather.gov |





Severe Weather Hazards and Risk Areas Today

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Hazards



Baseball Size Hail



70 mph Winds



A Few Tornadoes

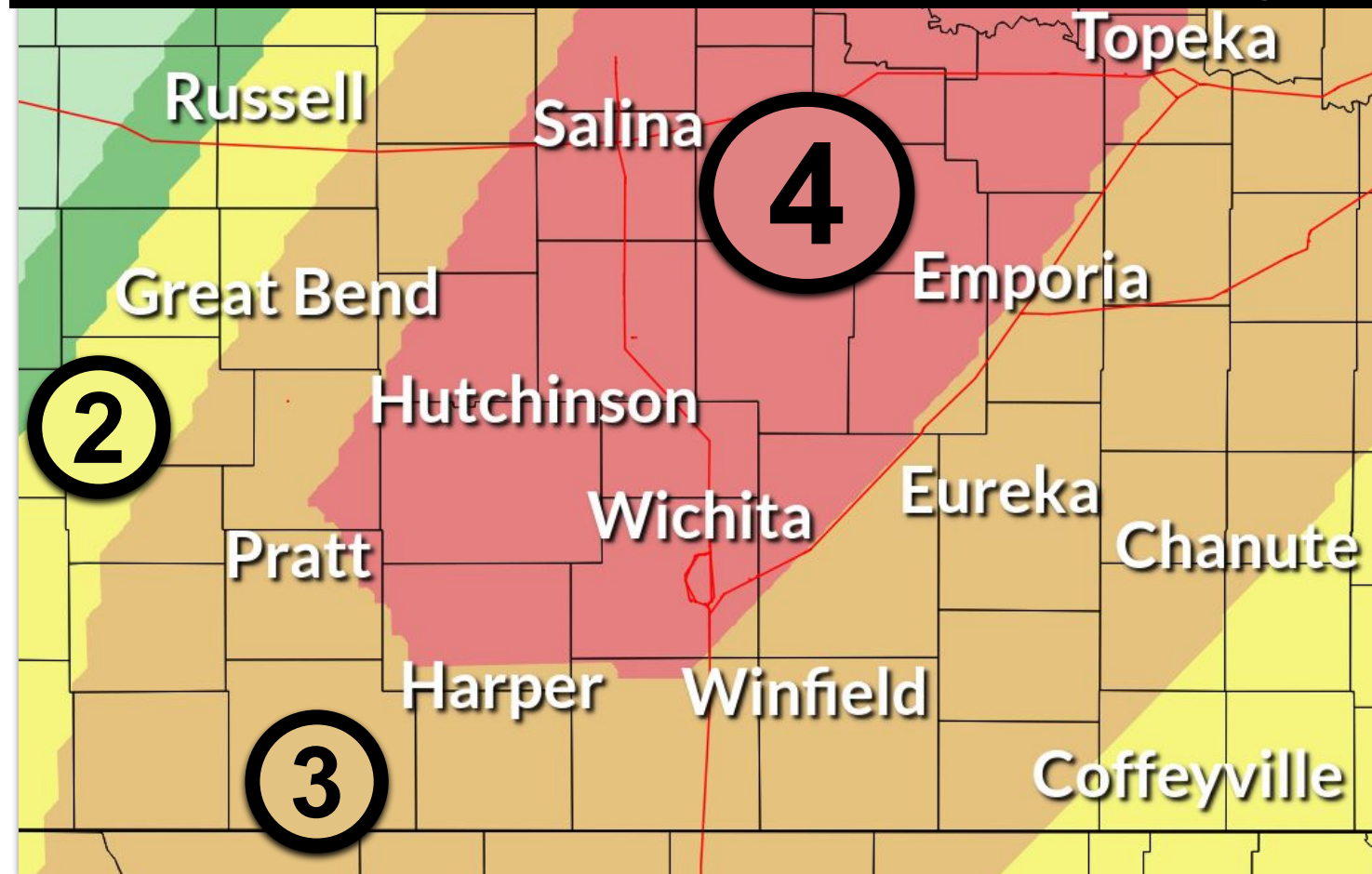


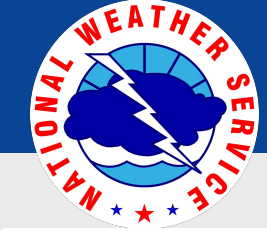
Heavy Rain

Action

Have multiple ways to receive warning information, and be ready to take action if a warning is issued for your area.

Area of Concern and Risk Level Today



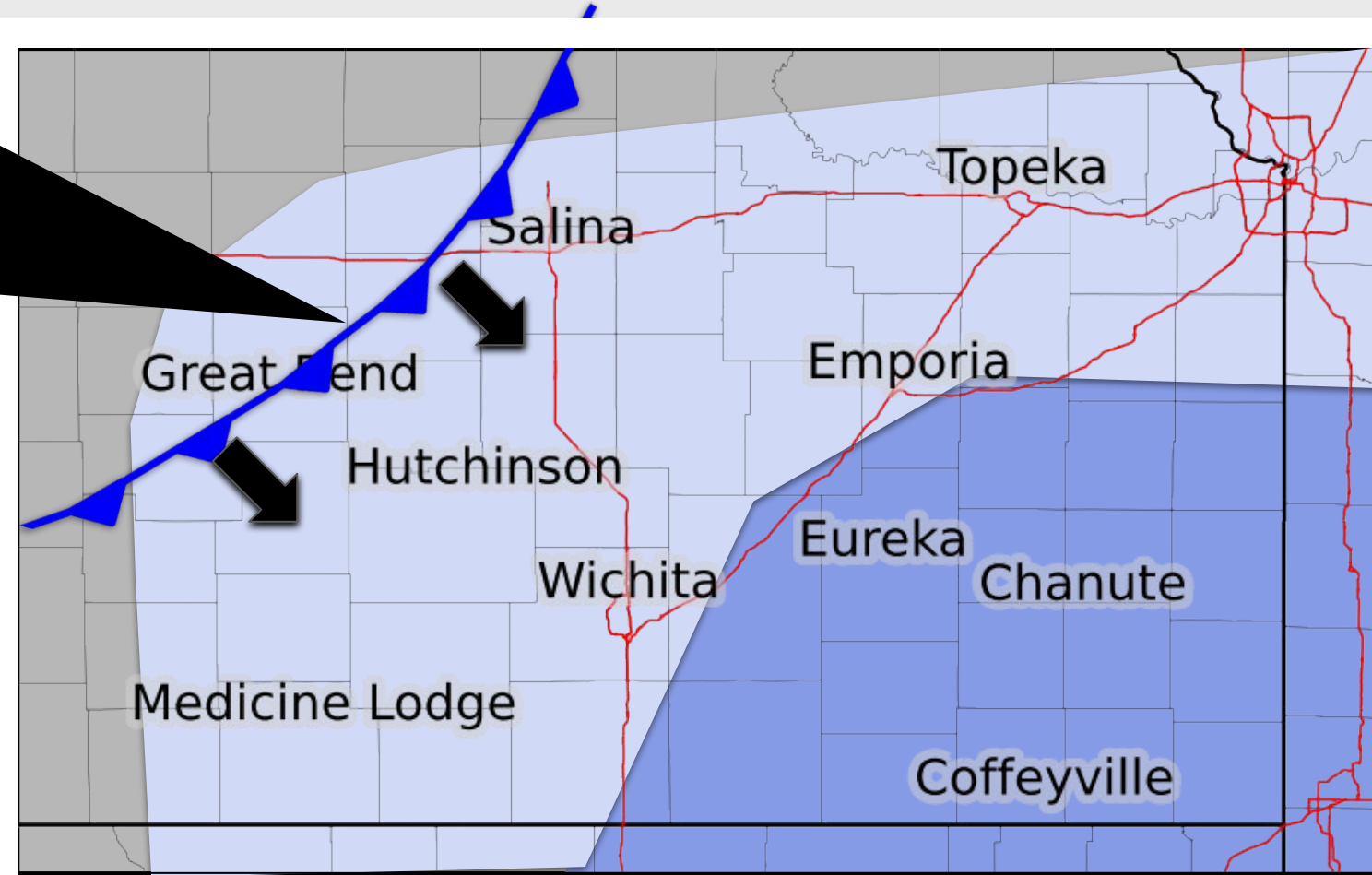


Severe Weather Timing for Today

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Storms are expected to initiate along a cold front over central Kansas this afternoon around 3PM. The storms will then spread slowly southward through the remainder of the night across the entire region.

Storms look to impact areas generally east of the Kansas Turnpike after 10PM.



Area 1

Earliest Start	2PM
Most Likely	3PM-12AM
Ending By	2AM

Area 2

Earliest Start	8PM
Most Likely	10PM-3AM
Ending By	4AM



Forecast Confidence for Today

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Timing



Location



Hazards



Confidence Details

There is **HIGHER** confidence in the timing and location for both the initiation of storms and primary areas of impact. However, confidence remains **LOW** to **MEDIUM** regarding the longevity of discrete storms, a factor that may potentially reduce severity levels.

Alternate Scenarios

Our confidence remains higher that storms will rapidly cluster together across central Kansas, then march southward as a line of storms. The risk of very large hail and tornadoes will decrease if storms cluster rapidly after initiation. Under this scenario, the likelihood of heavy rainfall and damaging winds would increase. Conversely, should any storms remain discrete for a longer duration, the potential for significant hail and a few strong tornadoes will increase. South central Kansas retains a small chance for a longer-duration discrete storm.



Are You Prepared?

- ✓ Know your safe place.
- ✓ Pack an emergency kit.
- ✓ Write a family communication plan.
- ✓ Conduct drills at home and work.
- ✓ Have multiple sources for warnings.



Have Multiple Methods to Receive **NWS Warnings**

