



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

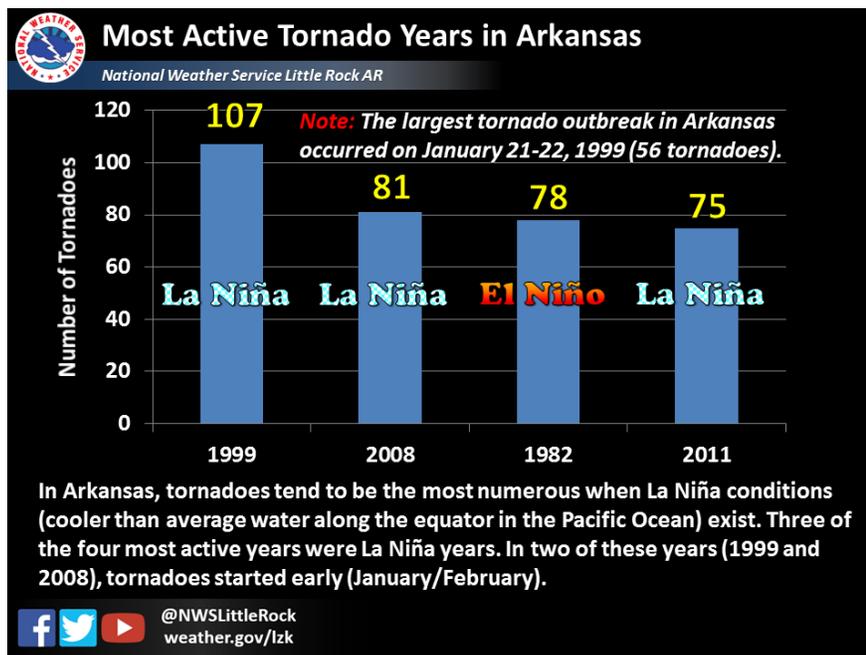


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, January 23, 2017

**Arkansas' Severe Weather Awareness Week is Sunday, February 26h - Saturday March 4th**

The severe storm season of 2016 brought with it 25 tornadoes, thunderstorm wind gusts in excess of 90 mph, baseball sized hail, flash floods and lightning. With the 2017 spring severe weather season fast approaching, the National Weather Service, in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, has designated the week of February 26th as Severe Weather Awareness Week. This is a safety campaign designed to help Arkansans prepare for the spring storm season. With La Niña conditions currently in place, it could be a busy severe weather season!



**For Arkansas' 2017 Severe Weather Awareness Week, the following safety topics will be highlighted:**

**Monday:** Severe Thunderstorms - Focusing on the dangers of large hail and damaging winds

**Tuesday:** Flash Flooding - Highlighting the danger of flash flooding and river flooding

**Wednesday:** Tornadoes - Highlighting safety tips to help people identify safe shelters, and develop a family emergency action plan before storms arrive.

+ *The Weather Radio test Wednesday will include instructions for a Tornado Drill; we encourage all Arkansans to test out their tornado safety plans during this time. The test and tornado drill will occur between 11 AM - noon. If storms are in the area on this day, the drill will be postponed to Thursday, March 2nd.*

**Thursday:** Lightning - Highlighting the importance of seeking a safe shelter with ANY storm that approaches, with a special emphasis on delaying outdoor sports/activities until the threat of lightning has passed.

**Friday:** Watches & Warnings - Providing information regarding what it means to be under a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch or warning, and what actions are recommended when watches and warnings are issued.

**Saturday:** Creating a Weather Ready Nation - Focused on providing information about how you can communicate weather safety and preparedness within your community to help make everyone better prepared for bad weather.

***The Time to Prepare is NOW!!***