

Main Points of Hazardous Weather Operation of Central Weather Administration (Excerpt)

1. "Hazardous weather" in this Main Points refers to typhoon, heavy rain, torrential rain, thunder and lightning, hail, dense fog, tornado/waterspout, strong wind, low temperature, foehn, drought and other weather phenomena which may cause loss of life or property as stipulated under Paragraph 12, Article 2 of the Meteorological Act.
2. The terms used in this Main Points are defined as follows:
 - (1) Heavy rain: When 24-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 80 millimeters, or 1-hour rainfall exceeds 40 millimeters.
 - (2) Extremely heavy rain: When 24-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 200 millimeters, or 3-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 100 millimeters.
Torrential rain: When 24-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 350 millimeters, or 3-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 200 millimeters.
Extremely torrential rain: When 24-hour accumulated rainfall exceeds 500 millimeters.
 - (3) Thunder and lightning: Thunder and lightning are two atmospheric phenomena that often occur together. Lightning is a discharge of transient electricity.
Thunder is the sound of fast air expansion caused by lightning along the path of the discharge.
 - (4) Hail: Solid precipitation in the form of balls or irregular lumps of ice formed in strong convection.
 - (5) Dense fog: When a fog causes horizontal visibility to be less than 200 meters.
 - (6) Tornado/waterspout: A violently rotating column of air occurring under or from a cumulonimbus and developing downward to near the ground or sea surface which often looks like a dark grey funnel or trunk of clouds.
 - (7) Strong wind: When average wind is scale 6 or above, or when gust reaches scale 8 or above.
 - (8) Low temperature: When ground-level temperature is below 10°C in Taiwan, Penghu or Kinmen, or below 6°C in Matsu.

When ground-level temperature reaches the aforementioned threshold, the “cold surge advisory” signal is yellow. When ground-level temperature drops below 6°C (2°C for Matsu), or drops below 10°C and remains below 12°C for 24 hours (6°C and 8°C respectively for Matsu), advisory signal is orange. When ground-level temperature remains below 6°C (2°C for Matsu) for 24 hours, advisory signal is red.

(9) “Ground level” in the foregoing paragraphs is defined as below 200 meters in altitude.

(10) Foehn: A dry hot wind of suddenly increased speed caused when air temperature rises and relative humidity drops as it travels across a mountain and goes down the leeward slope.