

# National Weather Service *Advanced Storm Spotter* Training

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JASON DAVIS, METEOROLOGIST  
NWS BIRMINGHAM, AL



# Advanced Spotter Training Outline



## Part I

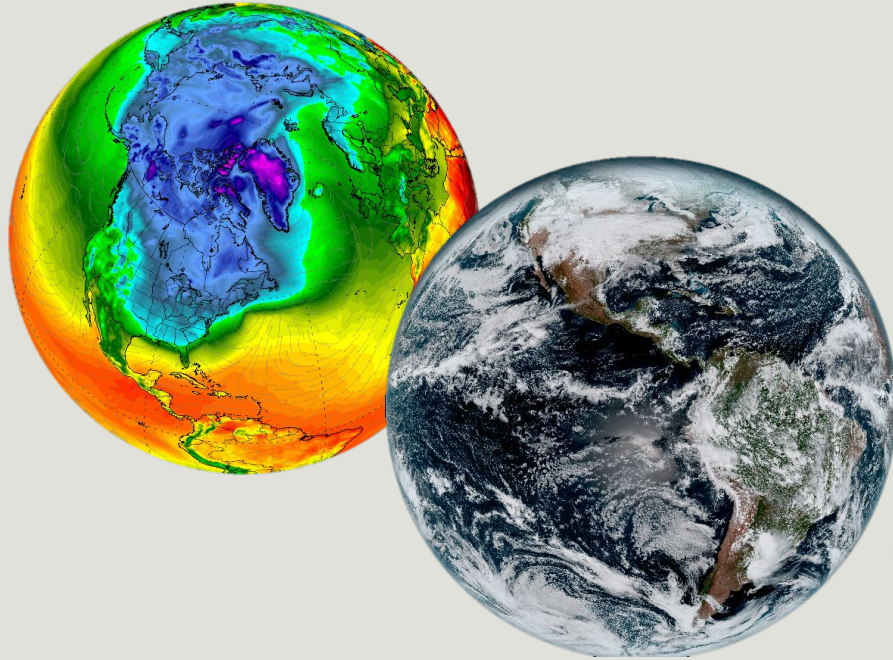
- Atmospheric features, types and scale
- Severe weather ingredients
- Using our products

## Part II

- RADAR signatures
- Tornadogenesis
- Demo a severe weather event

# The Atmosphere

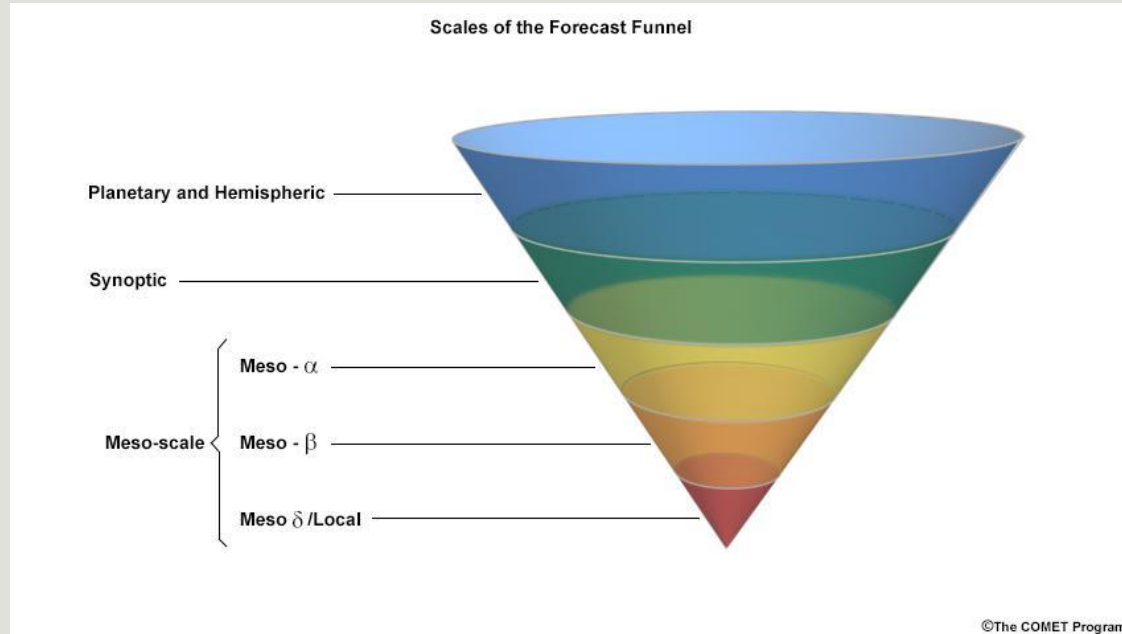
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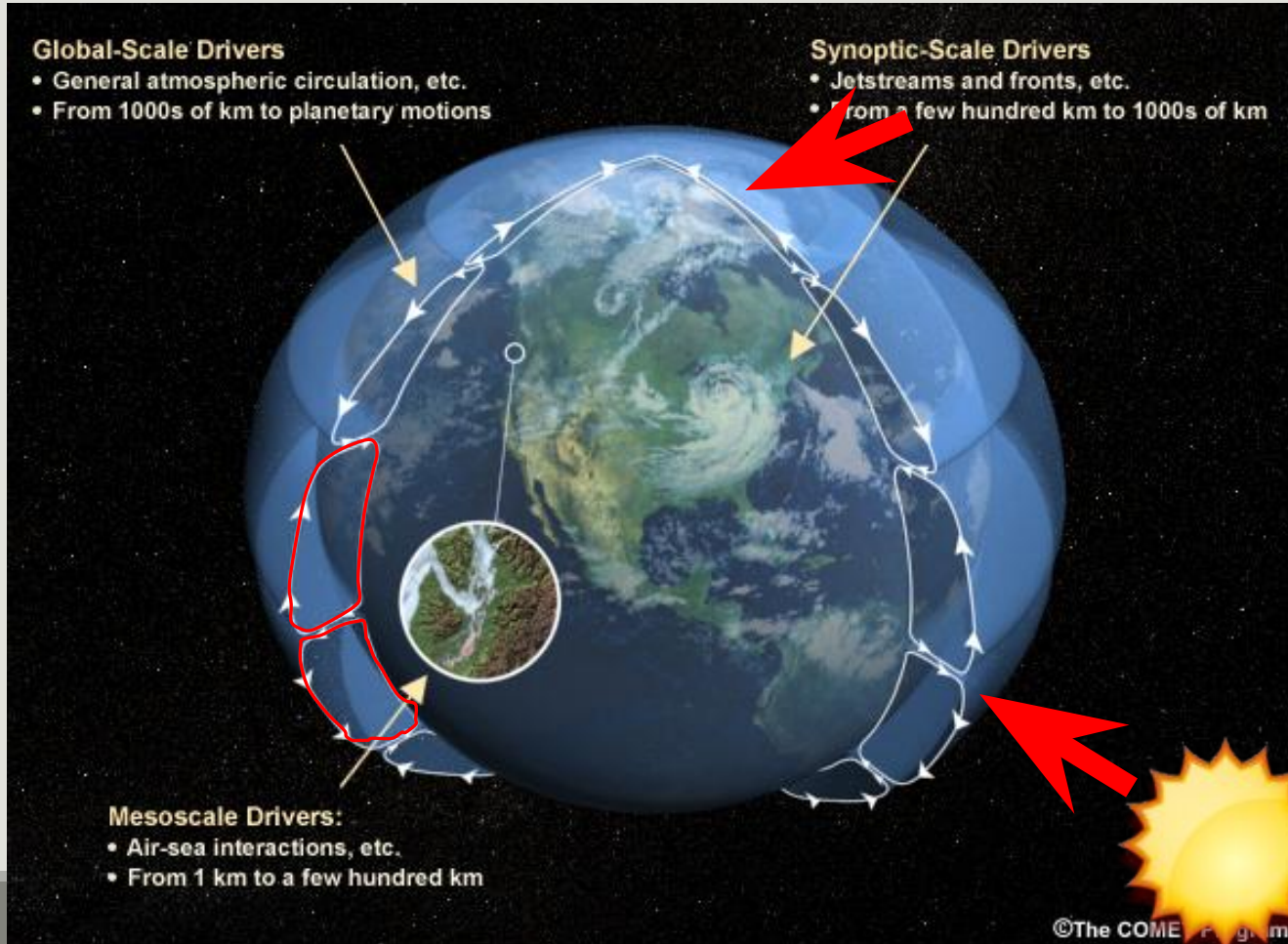
## Large to Small Scale

- *Global (Largest)*
- *Synoptic (Large)*
- *Mesoscale (Small)*

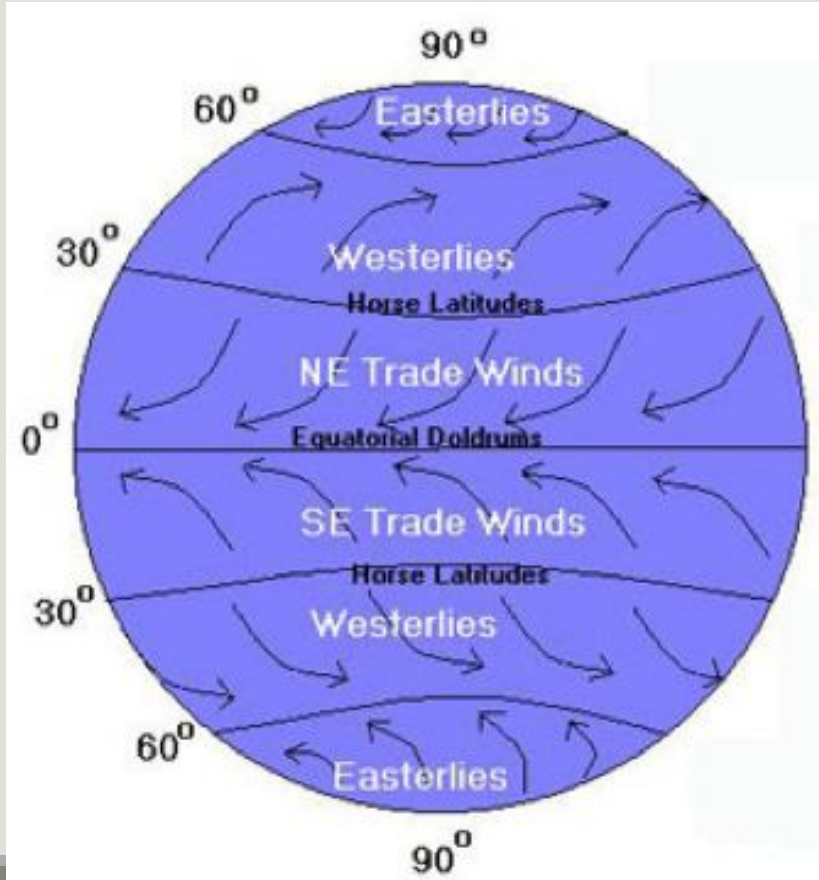
# “Forecast Funnel”



# Global Weather Patterns



# Global Weather Patterns



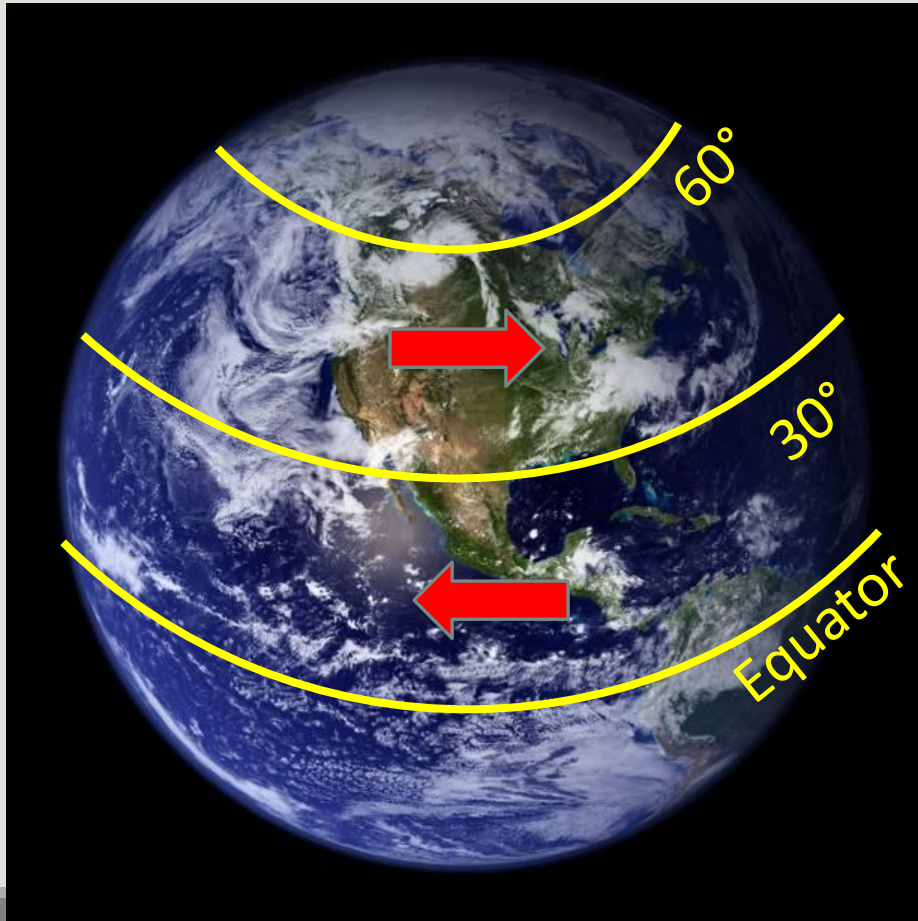
Weather Patterns  
should flow  
North to South, RIGHT?

Two More Things to  
Factor in:

- Rotation of the Earth
- Gravity

**Coriolis Effect**

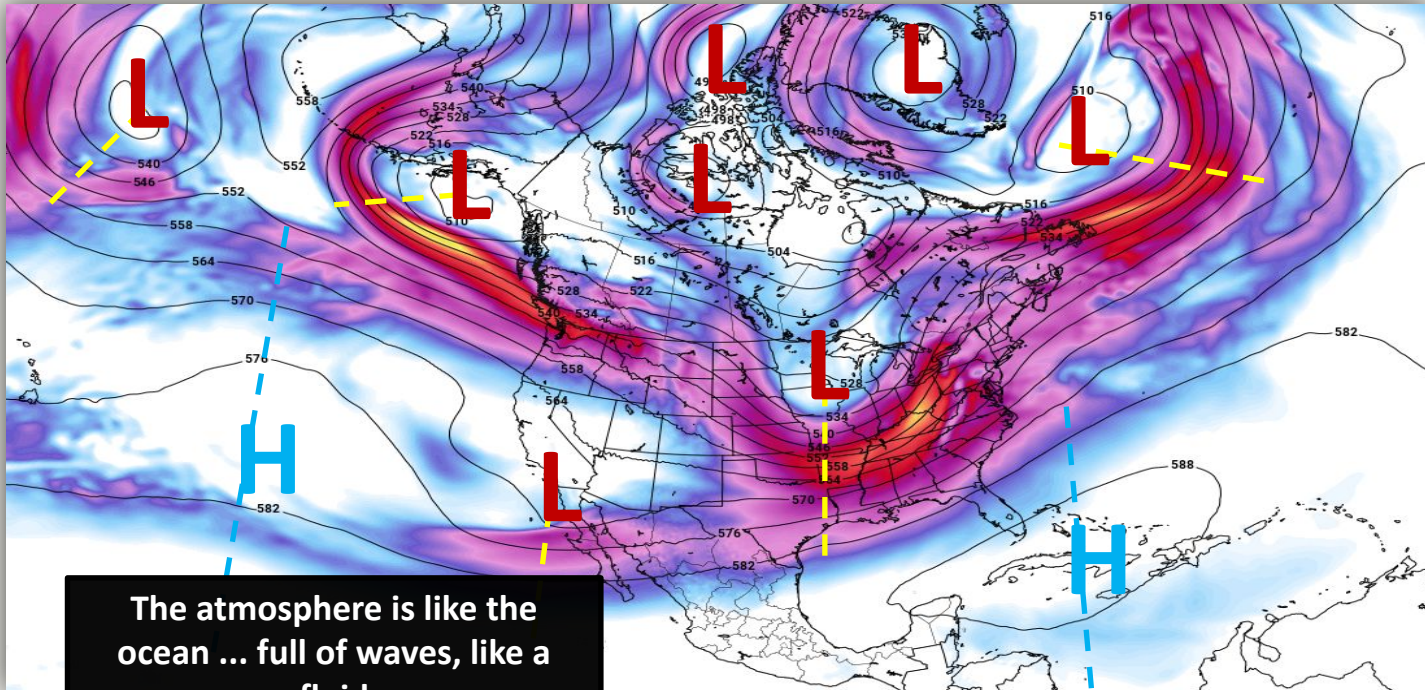
# Global Weather Patterns



## Westerlies vs. Easterlies

- Most of our weather comes from the west
- Hurricanes come from the east

# Synoptic Weather Patterns

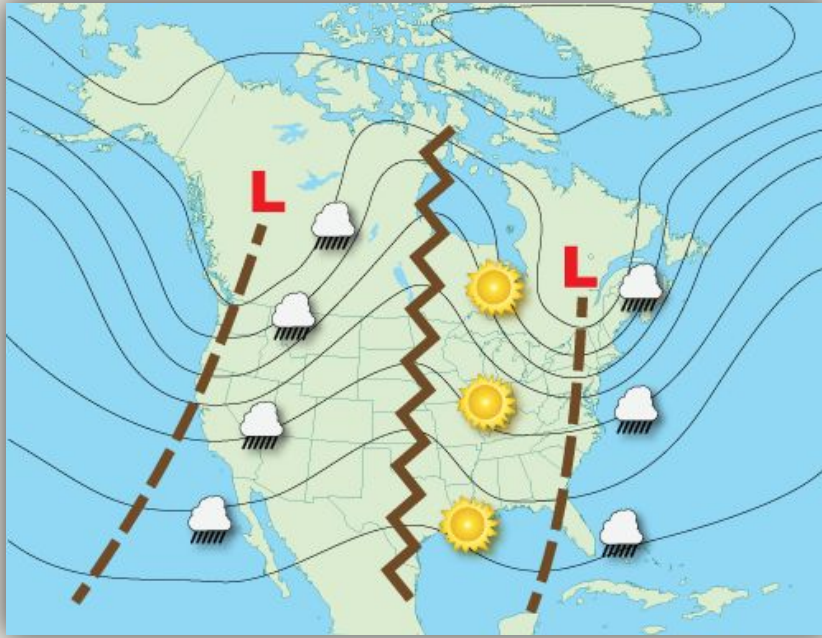


The atmosphere is like the ocean ... full of waves, like a fluid



# Neutrally-Tilted Troughs

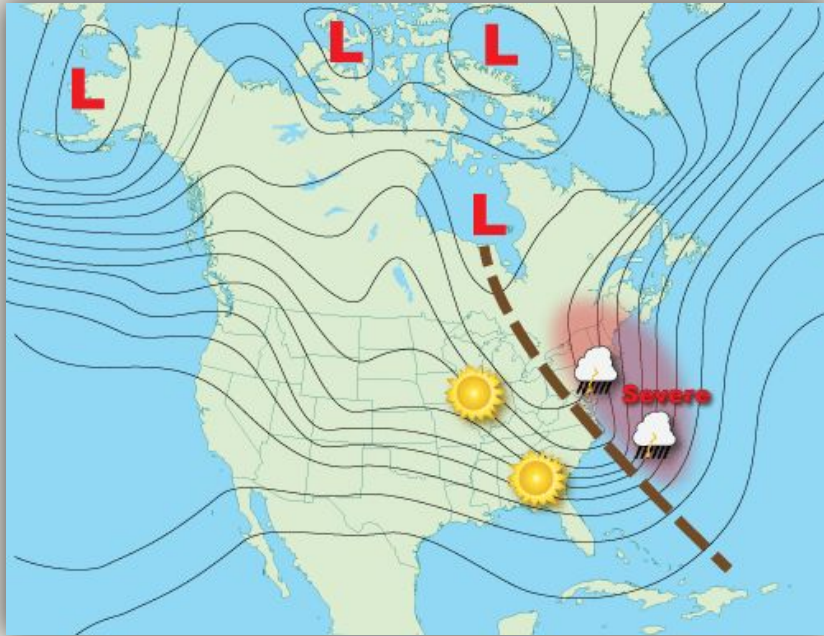
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- Trough axis extends from the lowest pressure north to south
- Active weather occurs between the trough and downwind (eastward) ridge

# Negatively-Tilted Trough

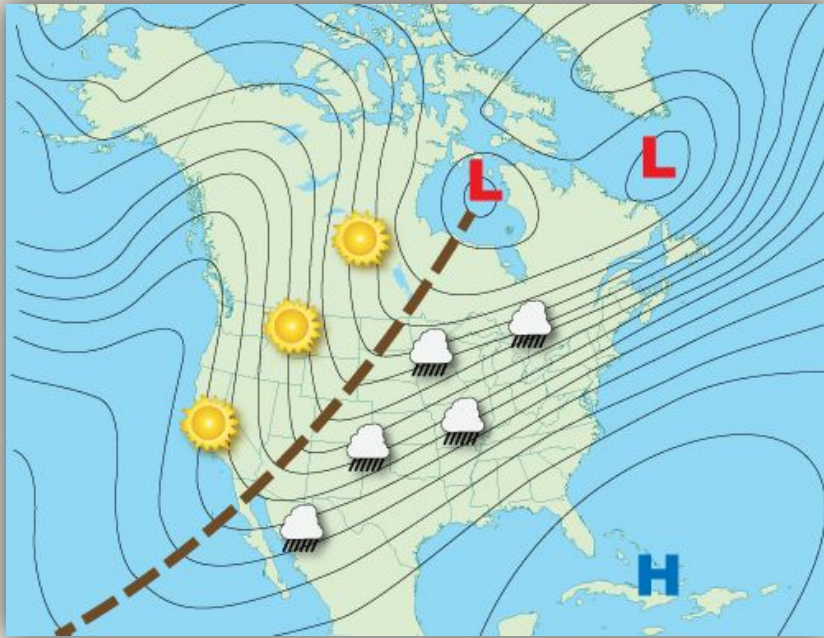
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- Trough axis extends from the lowest pressure northwest to southeast
- Active weather + highest severe potential

# Positively-Tilted Trough

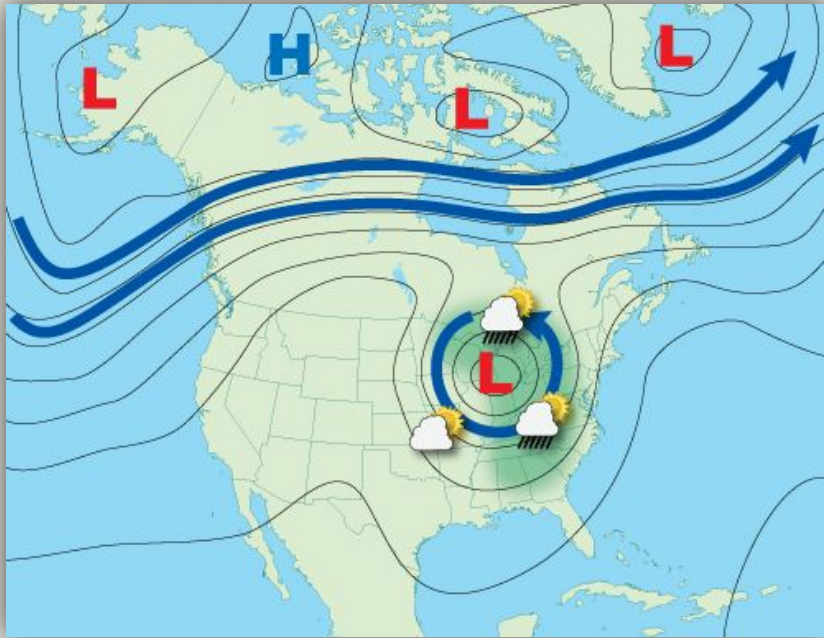
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- Trough axis extends from the lowest pressure northeast to southwest
- Active weather can occur; still can have severe storms under the right conditions

# Cut-off Low

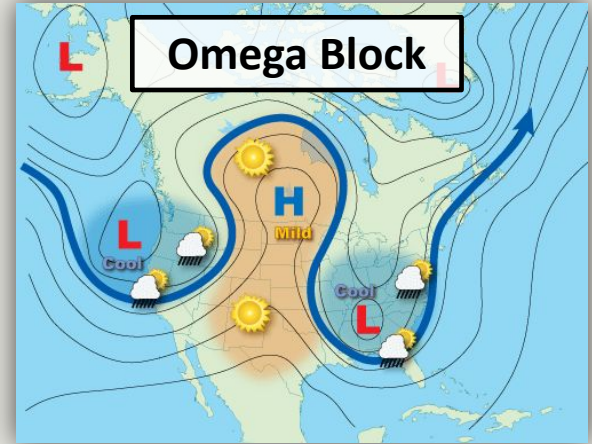
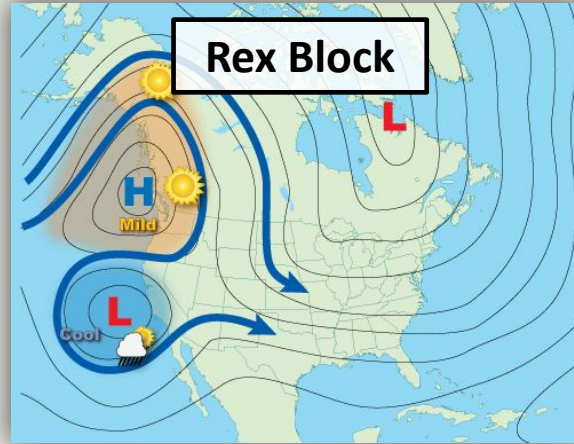
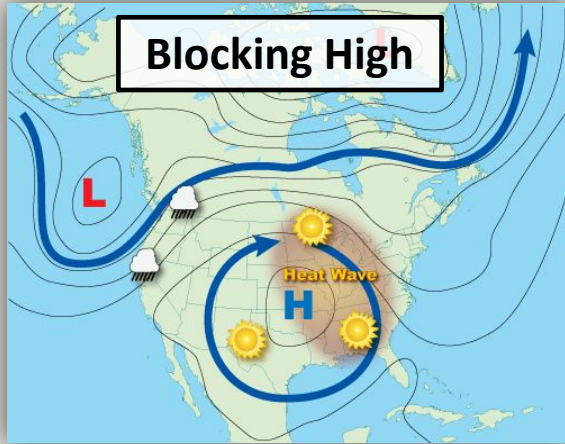
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- Persistent area of low pressure removed from the steering flow
- Can meander for several days, sometimes over a week
- Produce unsettled weather

# Blocking Patterns

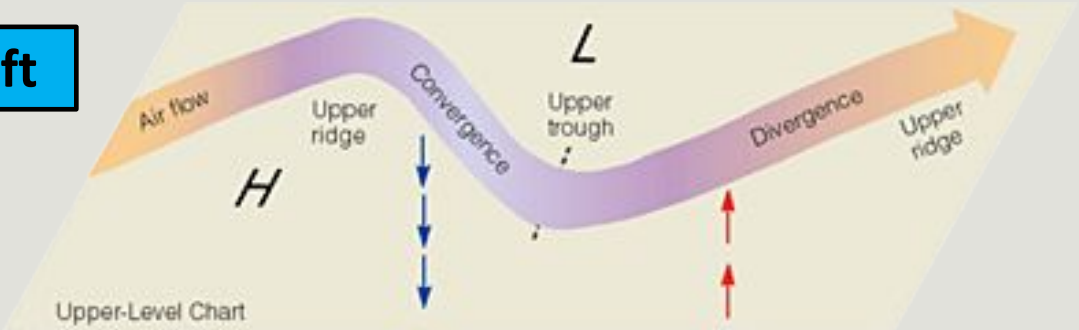
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- When weather systems set up in a way that prevents progressive movement
- Result in long spans of persistent weather conditions for a given area

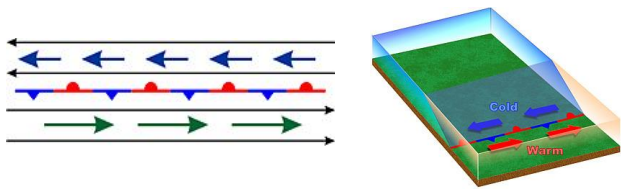
# Synoptic Weather Patterns: Top-down

**Aloft**

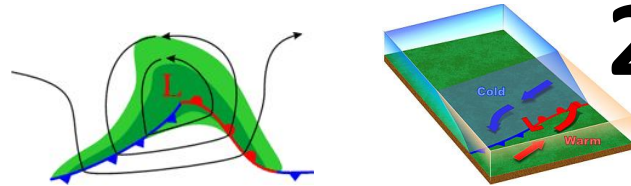


**Surface**

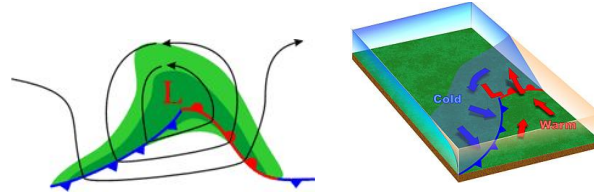




**1** Boundary between warm, cooler air

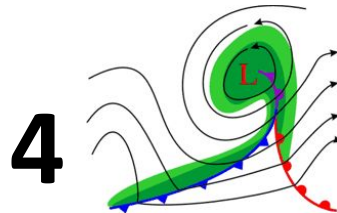


**2** With upper-level impulse, surface wave forms; precipitation develops

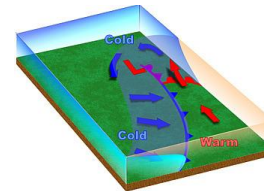


**3** Wave intensifies, fronts become better organized

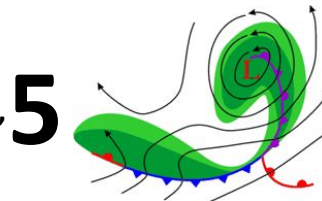
Low pressure matures. Cold front overtakes warm front and forms an occluded front



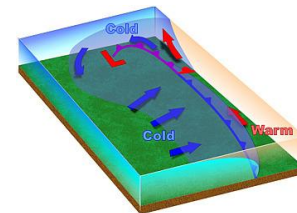
**4**



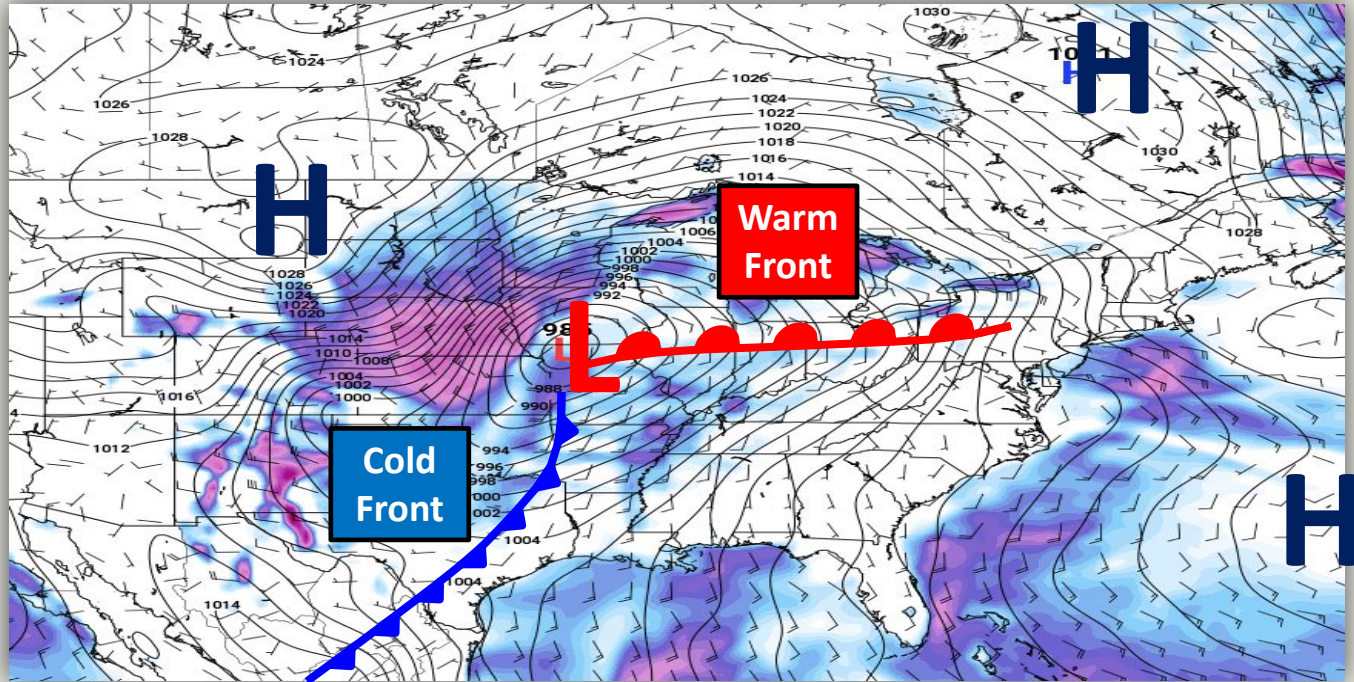
Cold front continues to advance on warm front and eventually cuts off supply of warm, moist air. Low pressure gradually dissipates



**5**

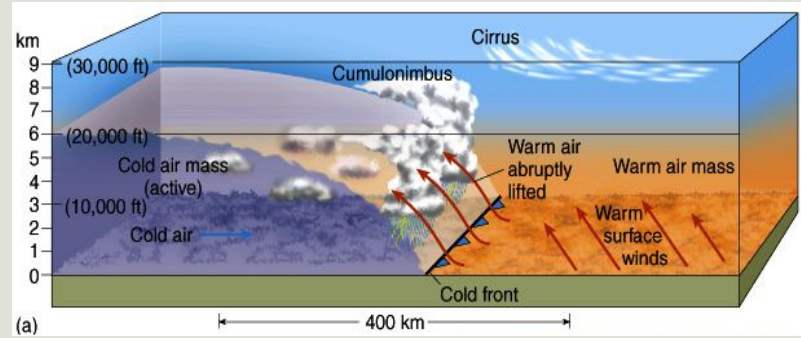
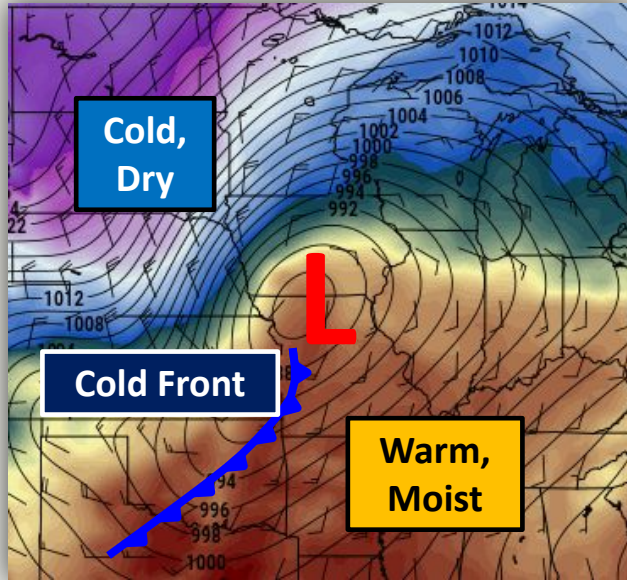


# Features Associated with Surface Low Pressure





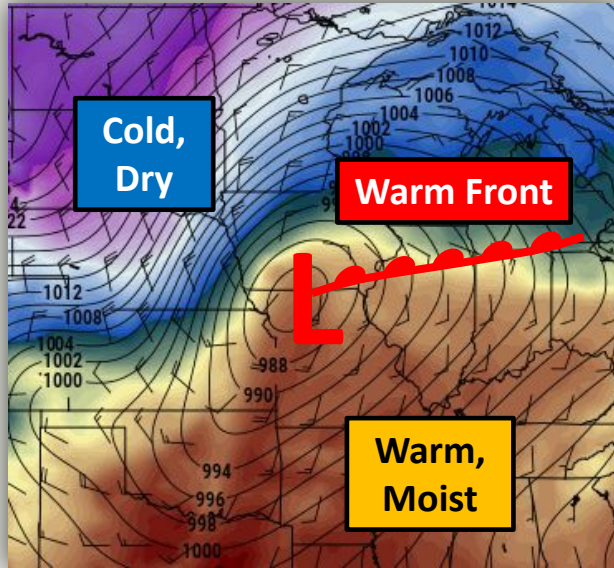
# Cold Front Structure



**Cold front definition: A zone separating two air masses, of which the cooler, denser mass is advancing and replacing the warmer air mass**

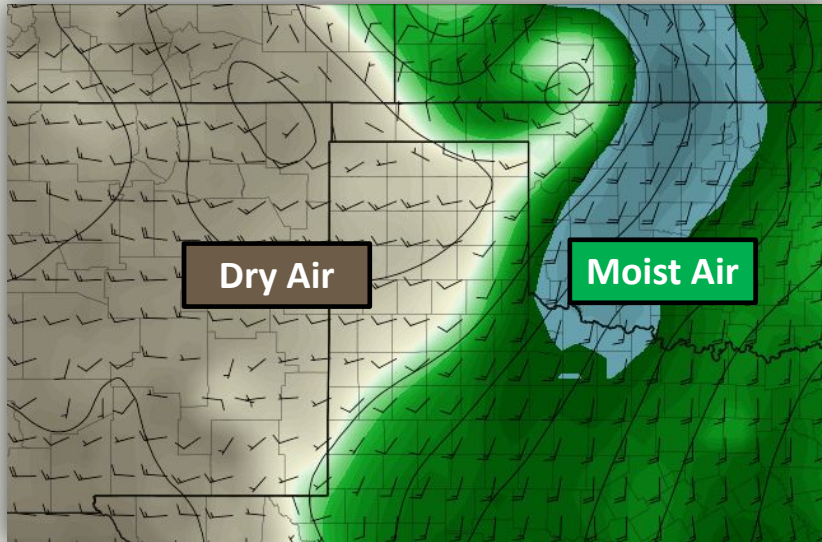
# Warm Front Structure

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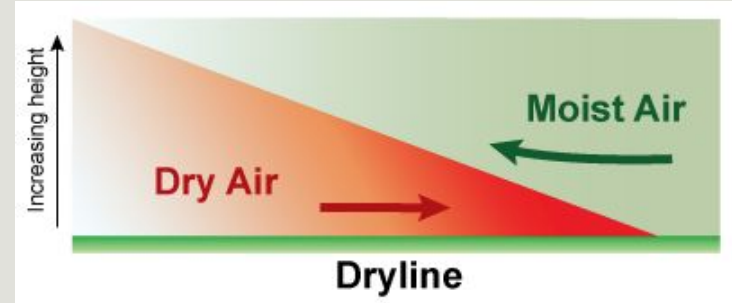


**Warm front definition: A transition zone between a mass of warm air and the colder air it is replacing**

# Other Boundaries – Dryline

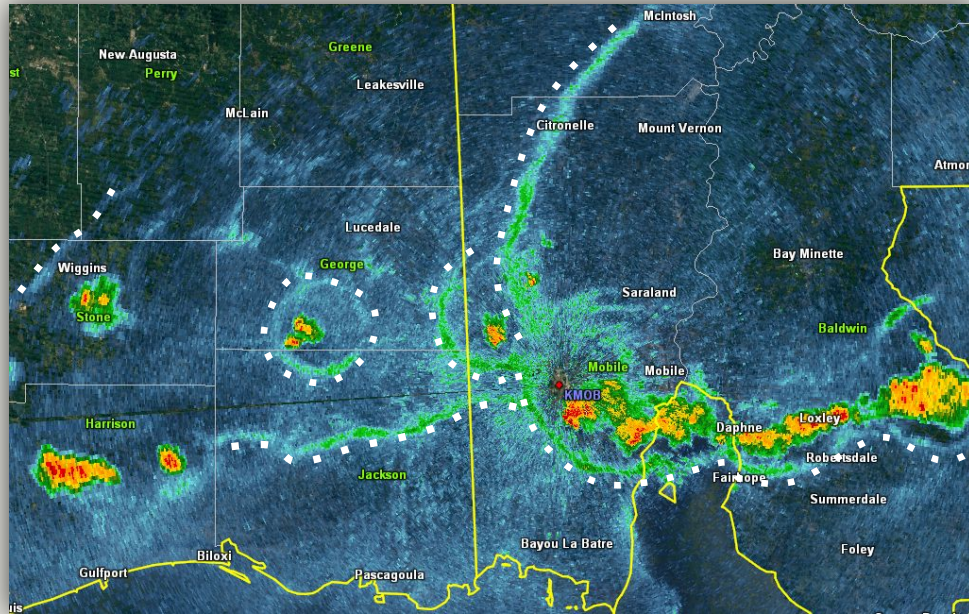


\*most common in the Plains, though strong weather systems can sometimes sweep the dryline eastward into the Mississippi Valley region



**Dryline definition: The boundary between a moist and dry air mass. Dry air forces moist air upward as the boundary moves eastward, which can trigger severe storms.**

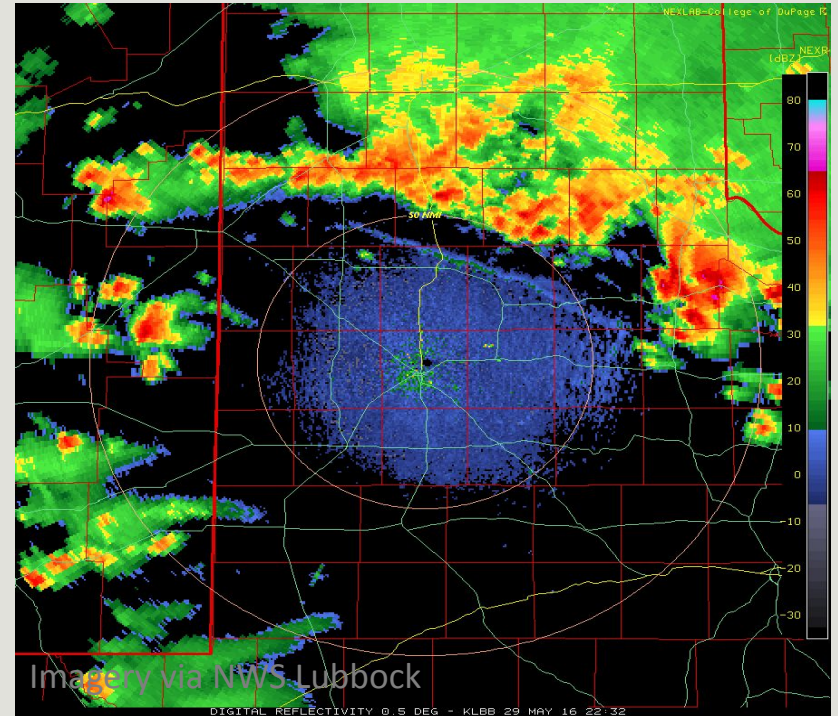
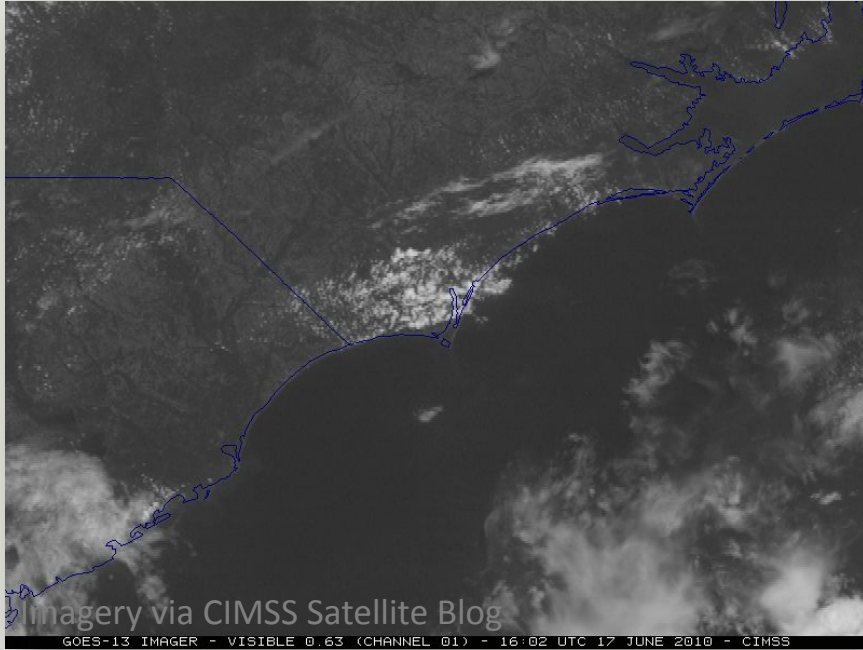
# Other Boundaries – Outflow



**Outflow boundary definition: A small-scale boundary that separates rain-cooled air from the surrounding air**

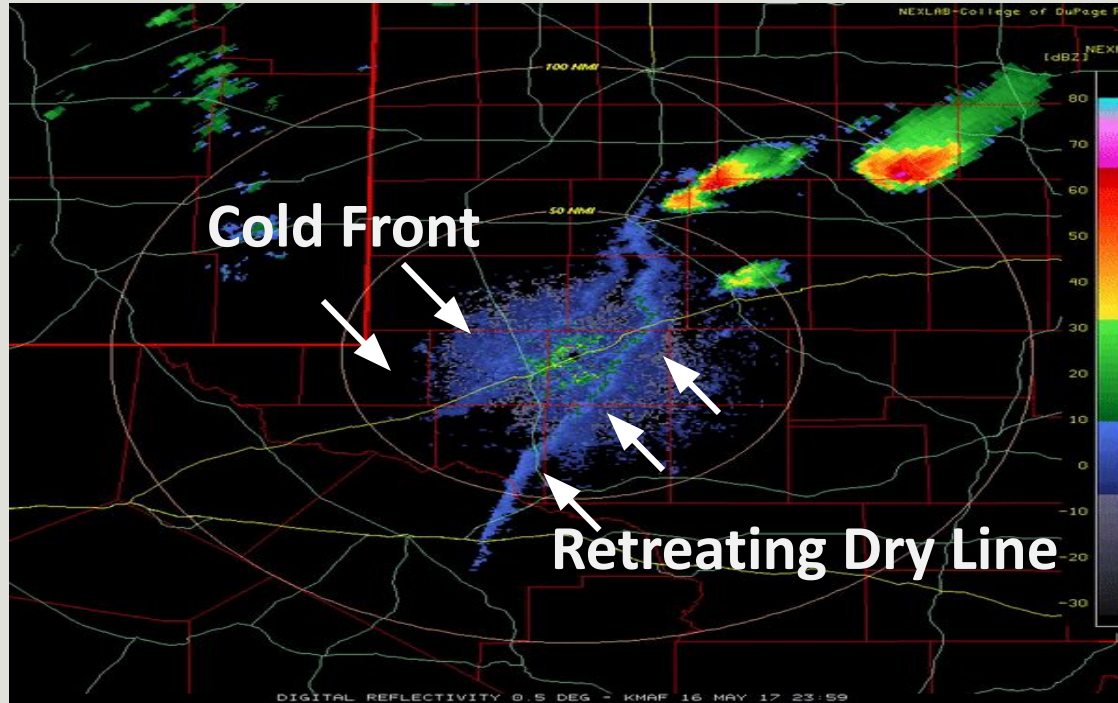
\*similar in effect to a cold front. Passage is marked with a wind shift/increase and drop in temperature. These boundaries can trigger new showers and storms.

# Outflow Boundaries in Action (GIF) --via Satellite and RADAR--

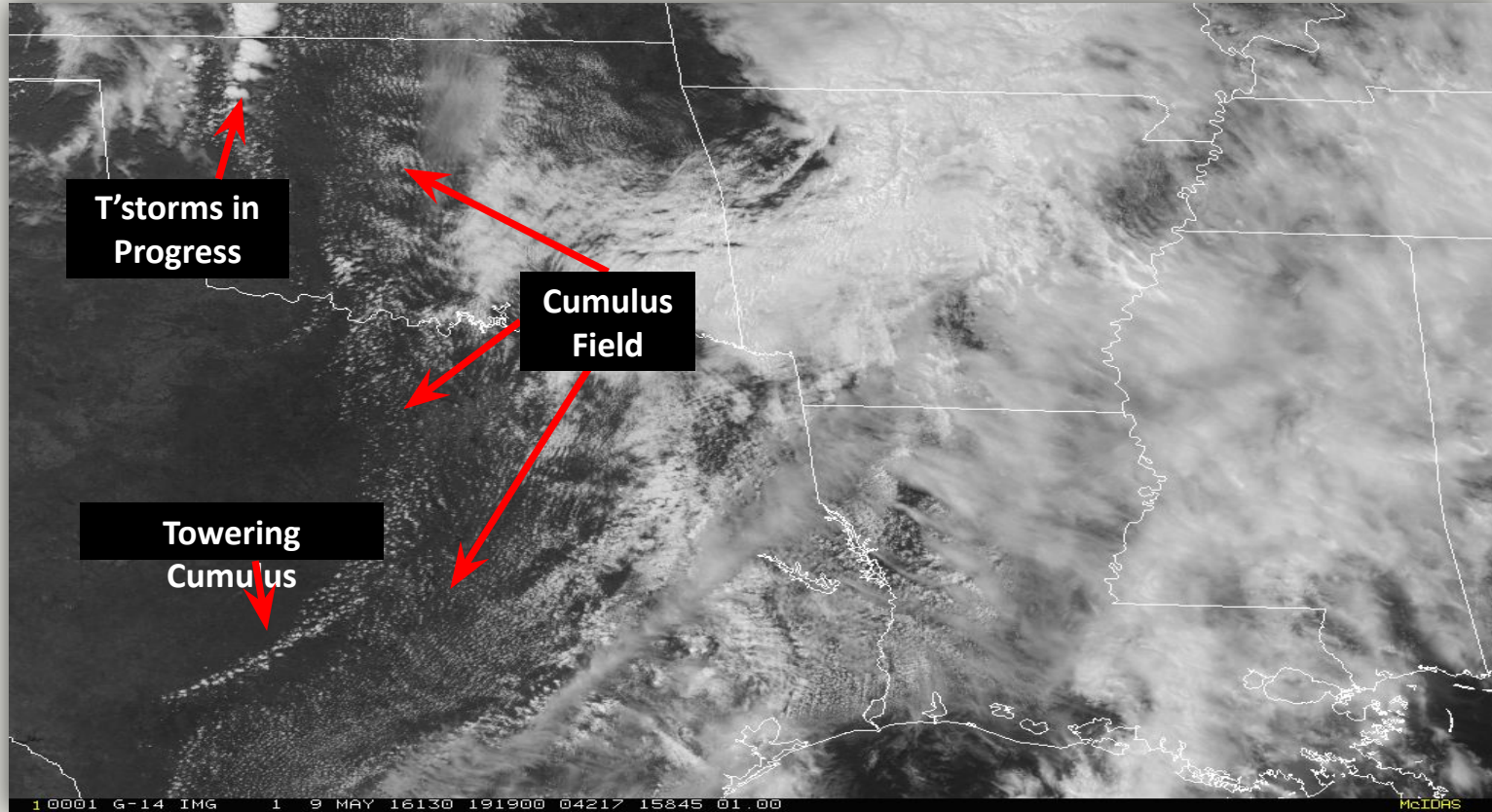


# Collision of 2 Boundaries

## --Interesting Things Happen at the Boundaries--



# Stages of Activity



# GOES-16 One-Minute Imagery



1 0001 G-16 IMG 2 8 JUN 17159 233053 00697 00736 01.00 CIRA/RAMMB



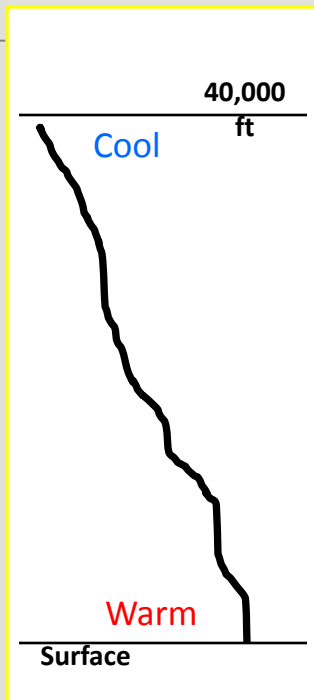




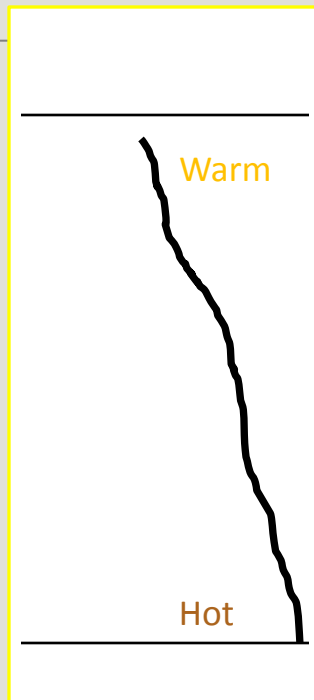
# The 3-Dimensional Atmosphere Instability



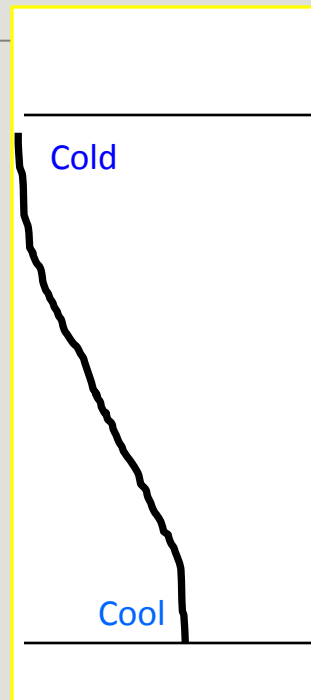
## General



## Summer



## Winter



In basic terms, the instability of the atmosphere is measured based upon how warm it is at the surface versus how cold it is aloft.

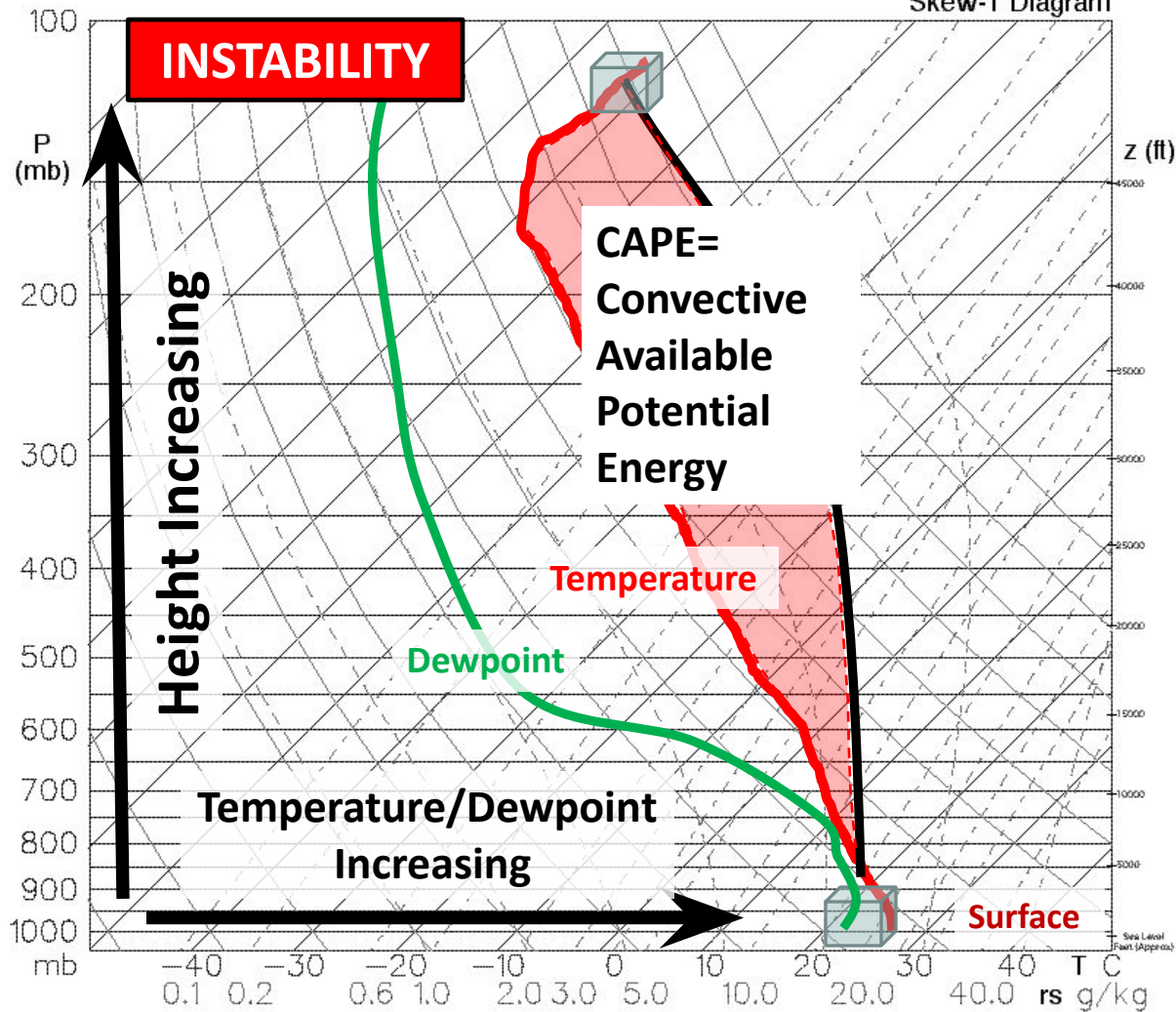
In general, the atmosphere gets colder as you go up.

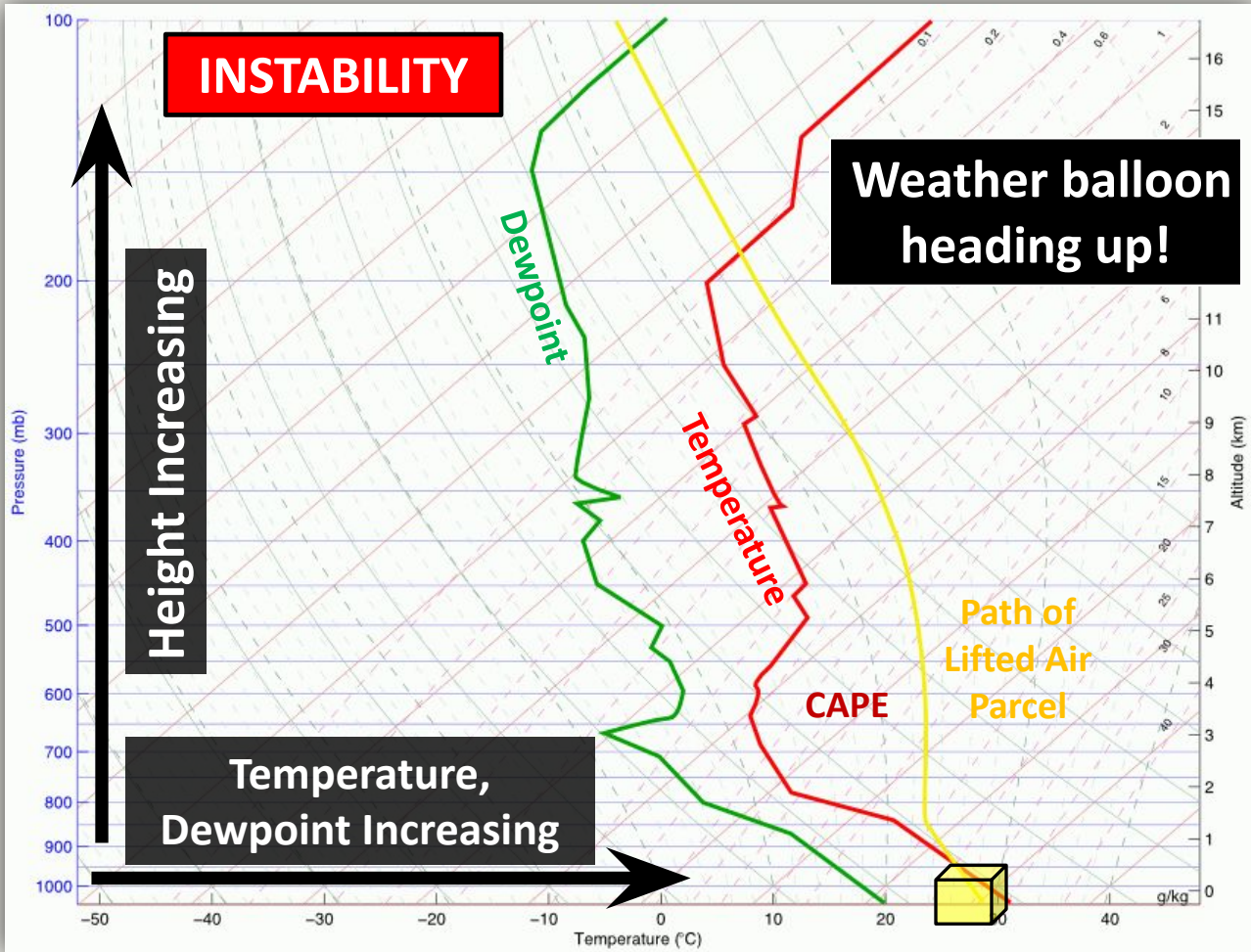
During the summer, it is a lot hotter at the surface, but it also warm aloft

In the winter it is colder at the surface, but it is also colder in the upper atmosphere, as well.

**How is the instability calculated?**

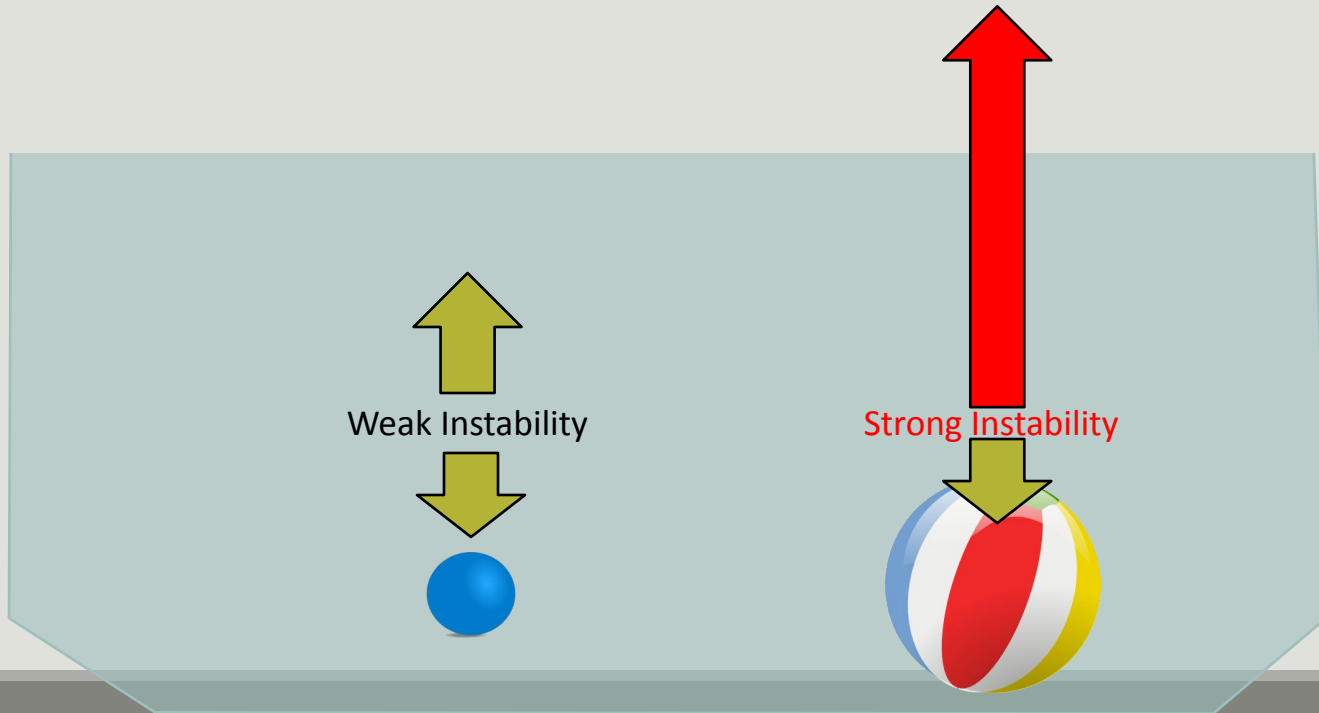
Temperature  
Increasing →



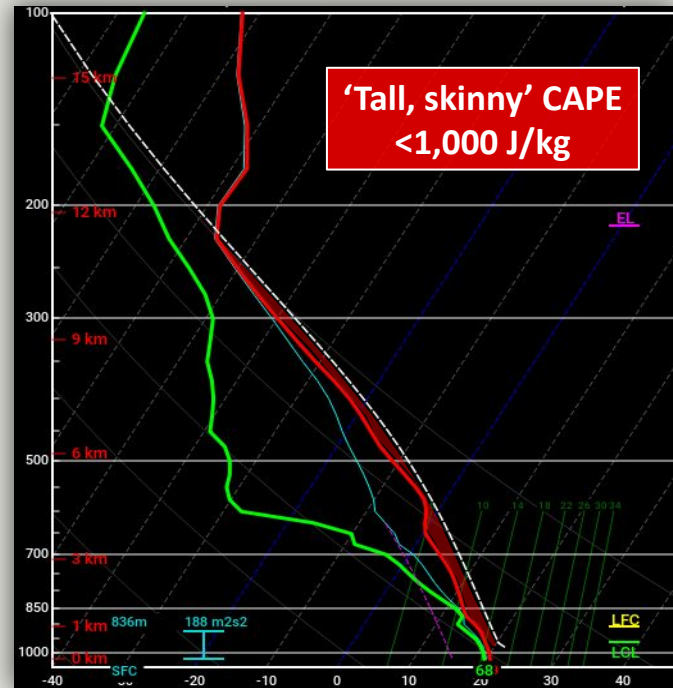
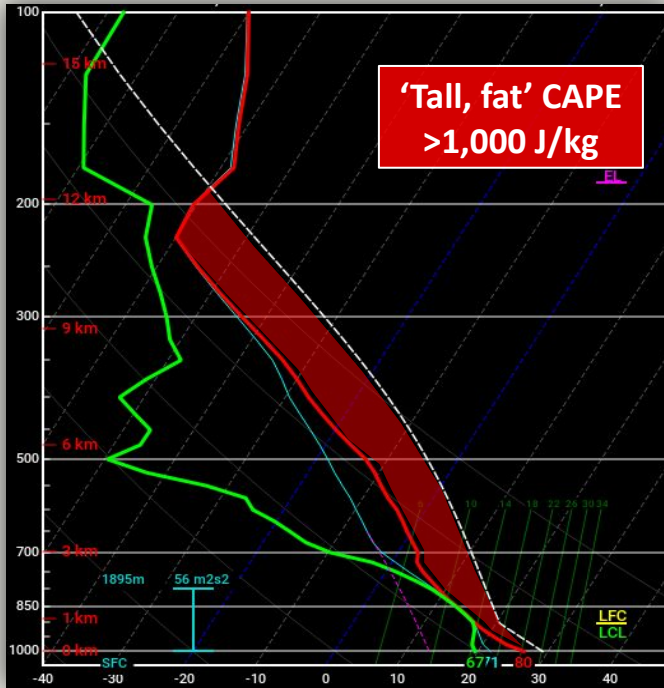


# The 3-Dimensional Atmosphere Instability

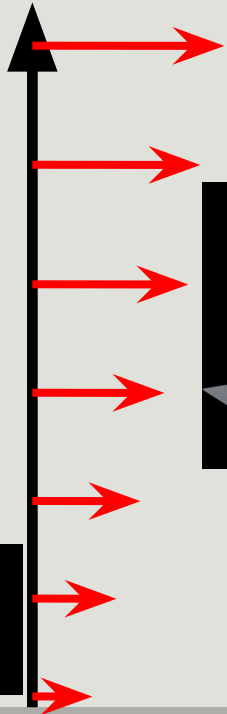
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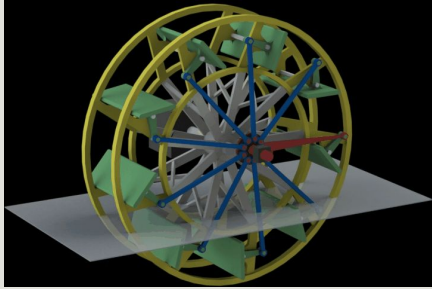
# Instability - Weak vs. Strong CAPE



# Wind Shear



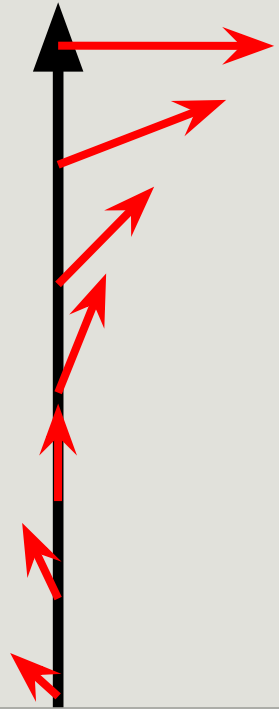
**Change in wind speed with height**



**Change in wind direction with height**

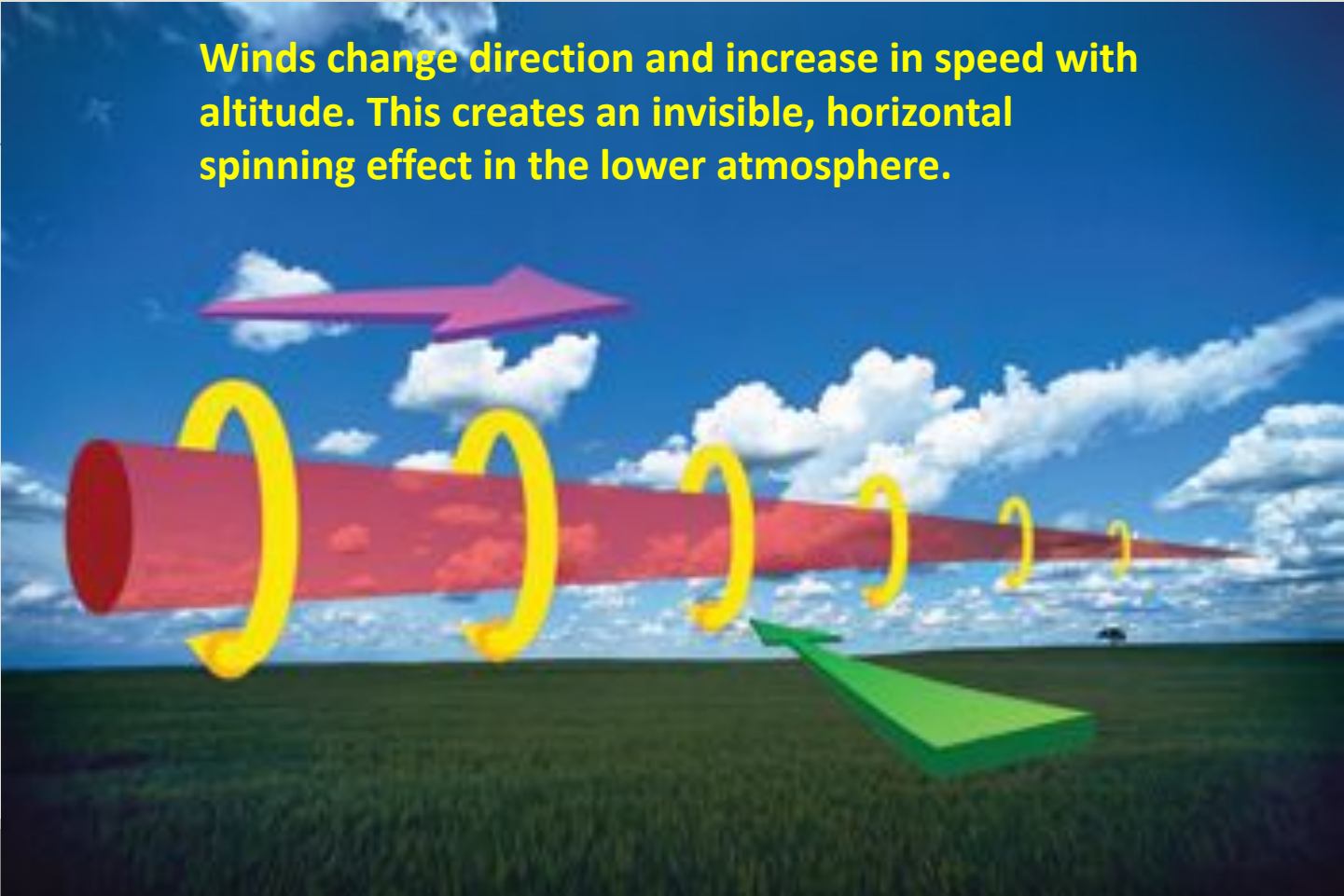


**Change in wind speed and direction with height**



# Wind Shear

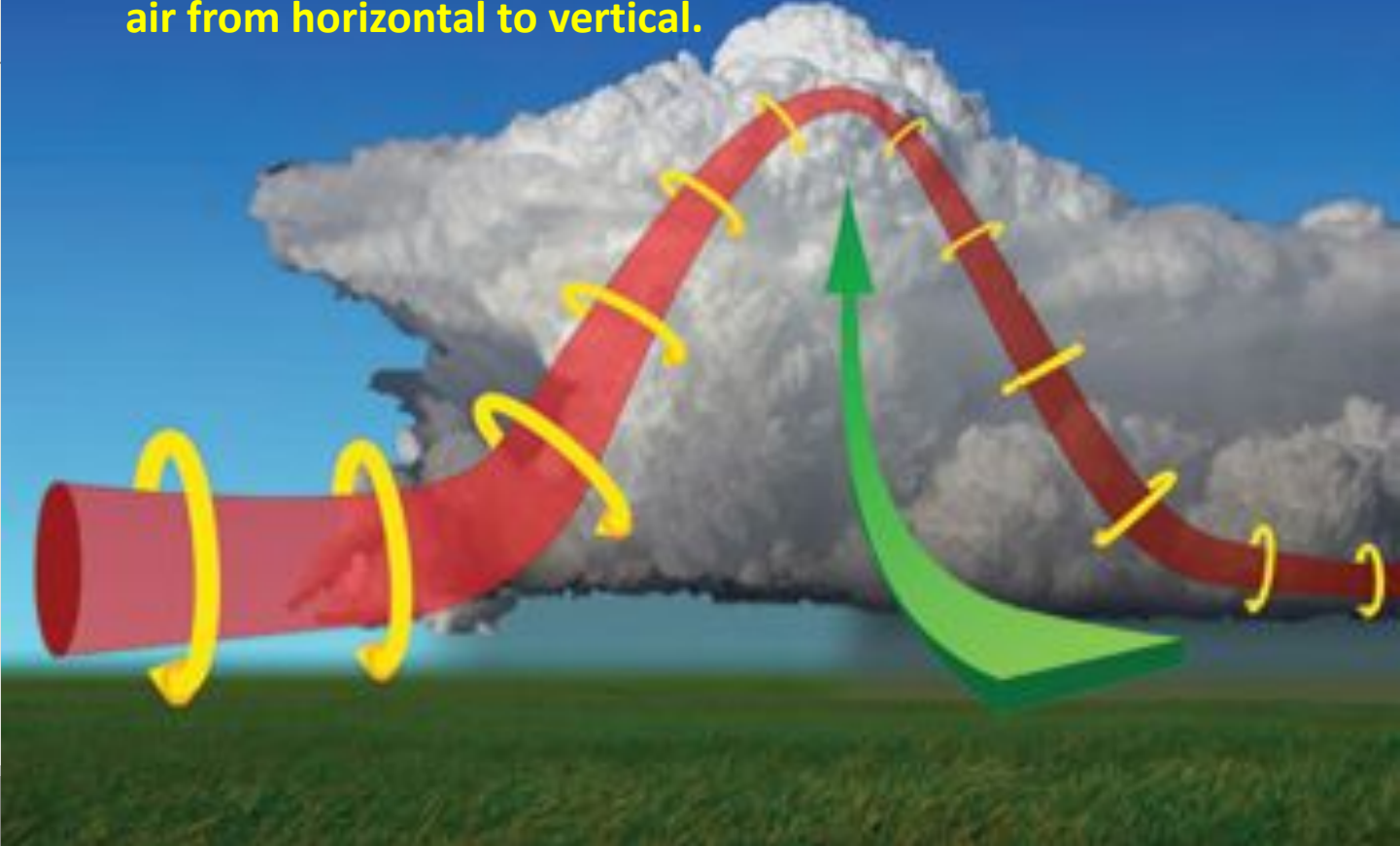
Winds change direction and increase in speed with altitude. This creates an invisible, horizontal spinning effect in the lower atmosphere.





# Wind Shear and Updraft

Rising air within the thunderstorm updraft tilts the rotating air from horizontal to vertical.



# Mesocyclone Formation

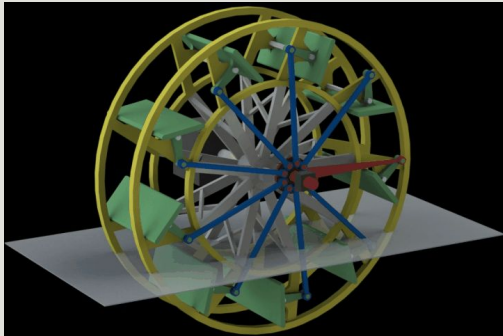
A mesocyclone, an area of rotation 2-6 miles wide, now extends through much of the storm.



# Bulk Shear

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- Difference in wind vectors (speed + direction) between 2 levels.
- >35 kts of bulk shear between the surface and 6 km above the surface means supercells can form.
  - *(if there is instability, lift, and moisture)*
- Wind shear between the surface and 3 km and surface and 1 km also important.



# Storm Relative Helicity

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- Potential for updraft rotation
- Required for corkscrew/helix-shaped flow



# Storm Relative Helicity

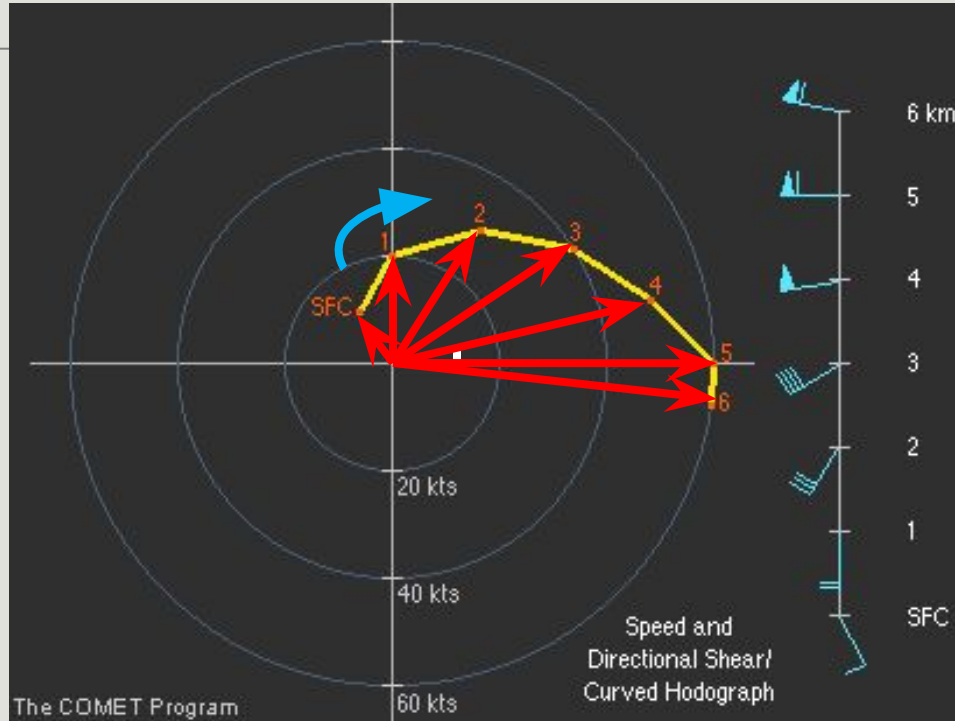
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Indicator of streamwise vorticity (spin): football spiral

Instead of crosswise vorticity: frisbee



# Storm-Relative Helicity



Observed via a hodograph

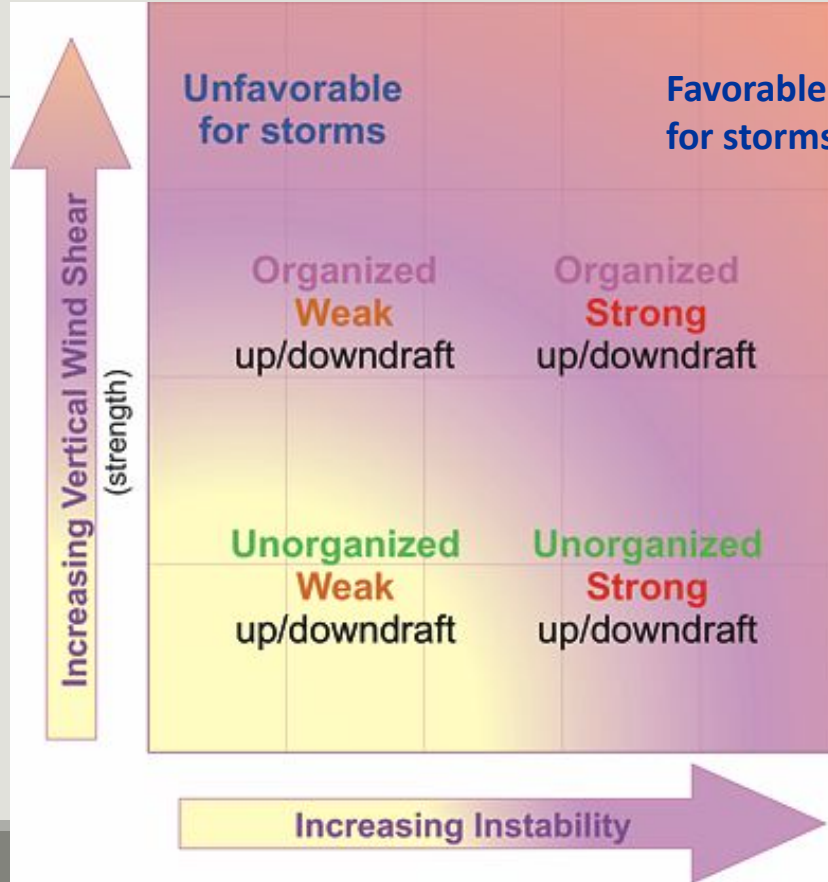
Wind vectors (length based on speed) drawn at multiple heights

Hodograph connects the tips of these vectors

Look for long hodograph (deep layer shear) and curved shape at low-levels (typically the left side)

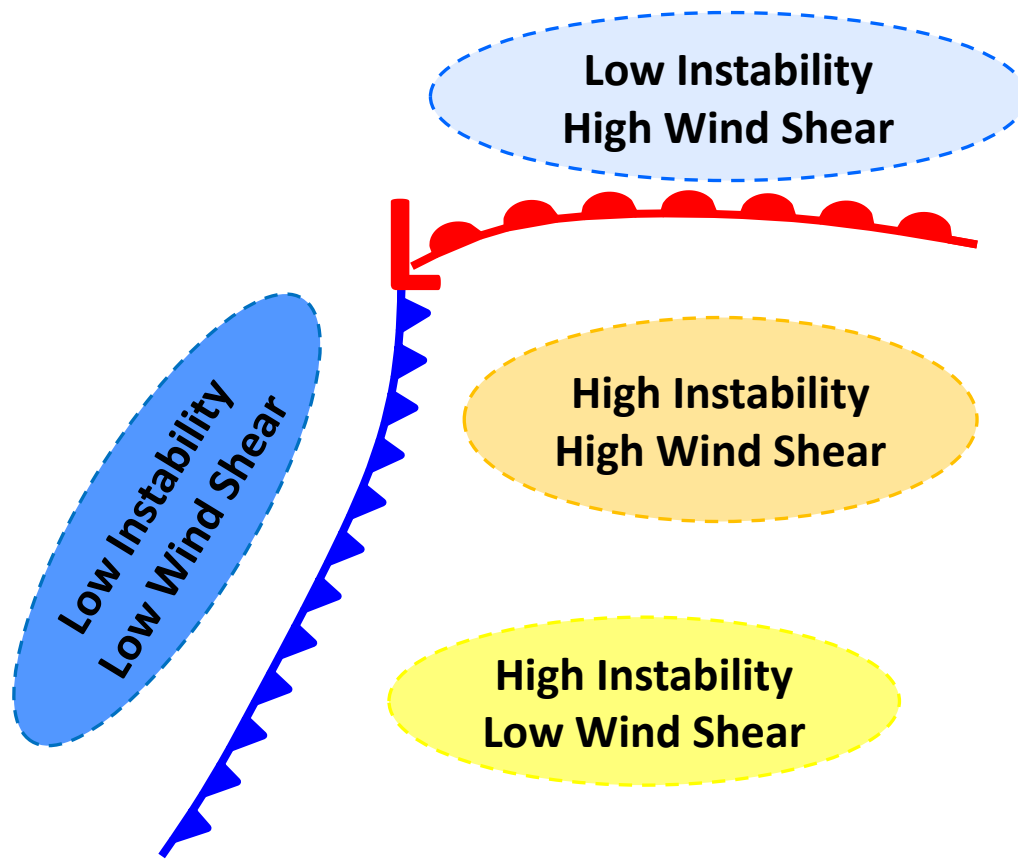
# Finding the Perfect Balance

## Instability versus Wind Shear



Finding the perfect balance between instability and wind shear remains a forecast challenge.

All about the favorable **mode of convection**.



**Typical surface  
low setup.**



# Lifting Condensation Level (LCL)

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- Measure of height of cloud base
- Function of near-ground humidity—related to temperature-dew point difference
- Lower LCL = less humid environment = downdraft temperature won't be as cool relative to environment compared to if the LCL was high



Low LCL: favorable for tornadoes



High LCL: favorable for straight-line winds

# weather.gov/bmx

MY FORECAST Birmingham AL

**National Weather Service Forecast Office Birmingham, AL** NWS Birmingham, Alabama Weather Forecast Office

Weather.gov > NWS Birmingham, Alabama

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar **Forecasts** Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather Local Programs

Monday Severe Tonight Monday

**73°F** 23°C Get Detailed Info

Tonight 20% Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers Low: 55°F

Monday 60% 80% Showers Likely then T-storms High: 70°F

change location

**Severe Storms Possible Monday Afternoon/Evening (1)**

Weather Forecast Office Birmingham, AL Issued March 24, 2019 1:14 PM CT

**Slight Risk Area:**

- Hail up to ping pong ball size
- Damaging winds up to 60 mph

**Marginal Risk Area:**

- Threats mentioned above are less likely but cannot be completely ruled out

1

Marginal Slight Enhanced Moderate High

f NWSBirmingham weather.gov/bmx

Severe storms possible in the afternoon and evening.

--Slight Risk of severe storms Monday afternoon to evening w/ large hail and damaging wind potential--

2

A shortwave trough will move from the Midwest toward the Central Appalachian region on Monday while a secondary shortwave trough moves from the Southern Plains into the Southeastern CONUS. The secondary trough will be the primary factor in Monday's severe threat.

The primary forecast complication is with respect to upstream precipitation that is forecast to move into the northwestern part of the forecast area early morning Monday. It appears that this activity should begin weakening as it continues eastward, setting the stage for a lingering boundary/differential heating zone. As the secondary impulse arrives during ensuing daytime heating, we'll be looking at an increasingly unstable air mass with support for renewed convection. Pending this scenario, strong to severe storms could occur during the afternoon and evening hours.

Surface flow ahead of the associated cold front won't be ideal for rapid or significant recovery/advection of higher-dew point air, though guidance continues to agree with a corridor of upper 50s to around 60 dews arriving by/into the afternoon hours. This will coincide with peak daytime heating, aiding in ample surface-based and mixed-layer CAPE for strong to severe convection given bulk shear of ~40-50 knots. A look at forecast soundings across Central Alabama show a low-level inverted-V profile with steep lapse rates. This will support a risk of damaging winds up to 60 MPH. A plume of mid-level dry air moving into the base of the trough + some overlap of the convective area and leading edge colder 500mb temperatures will supply mid-level lapse rates in the mid-upper 6 degrees C range. This will support a risk of severe-caliber hail. Given the unidirectional flow, a tornado threat isn't evident at this time. Due to limited vertical moisture content and surface convergence, we shouldn't see a high number of severe-caliber storms.

# Types of Tornado Warnings

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
Tornado Warning  
National Weather Service Birmingham AL  
150 PM CST SUN MAR 3 2019

The National Weather Service in Birmingham has issued a

- \* Tornado Warning for...  
Central Lee County in east central Alabama...  
Northwestern Russell County in southeastern Alabama...
- \* Until 245 PM CST.
- \* At 158 PM CST, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located near Tuskegee National Forest, or 9 miles south of Auburn, moving east at 60 mph.

HAZARD...Tornado.

SOURCE... Radar indicated rotation.

IMPACT...Flying debris will be dangerous to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be damaged or destroyed. Damage to roofs, windows, and vehicles will occur. Tree damage is likely.

- \* Locations impacted include...  
Auburn, Phenix City, Opelika, Smiths, Smiths Station, Ladonia, Beauregard, Bleecker, Griffen Mill, Bibb City, Monterey Heights, Chewacla State Park, Ladonia Sports Complex, Marvyn and Bartlett's Ferry Dam.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

TAKE COVER NOW! Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If you are outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

&&

LAT...LON 3239 8544 3250 8544 3250 8549 3253 8556  
3268 8511 3267 8509 3265 8509 3265 8511  
3263 8508 3262 8509 3258 8507 3251 8500  
3249 8499 3247 8500 3245 8499

TIME...MOT...LOC 1958Z 252DEG 53KT 3246 8552

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED

HAIL...<.75IN

\$\$

Severe Weather Statement  
National Weather Service Birmingham AL  
207 PM CST SUN MAR 3 2019

ALC081-113-032045-  
/O.CON.KBMX.TO.W.0023.00000T000Z-190303T2045Z/  
Lee AL-Russell AL-  
207 PM CST SUN MAR 3 2019

...A TORNADO WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 245 PM CST FOR CENTRAL LEE AND NORTHWESTERN RUSSELL COUNTIES...

At 206 PM CST, a confirmed large and extremely dangerous tornado was located near Society Hill, or 10 miles southeast of Auburn, moving east at 55 mph.

This is a PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. TAKE COVER NOW!

HAZARD...Damaging tornado.

SOURCE... Radar confirmed tornado.

IMPACT...You are in a life-threatening situation. Flying debris may be deadly to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be destroyed. Considerable damage to homes, businesses, and vehicles is likely and complete destruction is possible.

Locations impacted include...  
Auburn, Phenix City, Opelika, Smiths, Smiths Station, Ladonia, Beauregard, Bleecker, Griffen Mill, Bibb City, Monterey Heights, Chewacla State Park, Ladonia Sports Complex, Marvyn and Bartlett's Ferry Dam.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

To repeat, a large, extremely dangerous and potentially deadly tornado is on the ground. To protect your life, TAKE COVER NOW! Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If you are outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

&&

LAT...LON 3239 8544 3250 8544 3250 8549 3253 8556  
3268 8511 3267 8509 3265 8509 3265 8511  
3263 8508 3262 8509 3258 8507 3251 8500  
3249 8499 3247 8500 3245 8499

TIME...MOT...LOC 2006Z 25RDEG 48KT 3247 8538

TORNADO...OBSERVED  
TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CONSIDERABLE

HAIL...<.75IN

Severe Weather Statement  
National Weather Service Birmingham AL  
209 PM CST SUN MAR 3 2019

ALC081-113-032045-  
/O.CON.KBMX.TO.W.0023.00000T000Z-190303T2045Z/  
Lee AL-Russell AL-  
209 PM CST SUN MAR 3 2019

...TORNADO EMERGENCY FOR southern Lee County and northern Russell County...

...A TORNADO WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 245 PM CST FOR SOUTHEASTERN LEE AND NORTHWESTERN RUSSELL COUNTIES...

At 209 PM CST, a confirmed large and destructive tornado was located near Griffen Mill, or 11 miles southeast of Auburn, moving east at 60 mph.

TORNADO EMERGENCY FOR southern Lee County and northern Russell County. This is a PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. TAKE COVER NOW!

HAZARD...Deadly tornado.

SOURCE... Radar confirmed tornado.

IMPACT...You are in a life-threatening situation. Flying debris may be deadly to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be destroyed. Considerable damage to homes, businesses, and vehicles is likely and complete destruction is possible.

Locations impacted include...  
Phenix City, Smiths, Smiths Station, Ladonia, Bleecker, Griffen Mill, Bibb City, Monterey Heights, Ladonia Sports Complex, Marvyn and Bartlett's Ferry Dam.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

To repeat, a large, extremely dangerous, and potentially deadly tornado is on the ground. To protect your life, TAKE COVER NOW! Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

&&

LAT...LON 3242 8540 3250 8544 3268 8511 3267 8509  
3265 8509 3265 8511 3263 8508 3262 8509  
3258 8507 3251 8500 3249 8499 3247 8500  
3245 8499

TIME...MOT...LOC 2009Z 252DEG 53KT 3248 8533

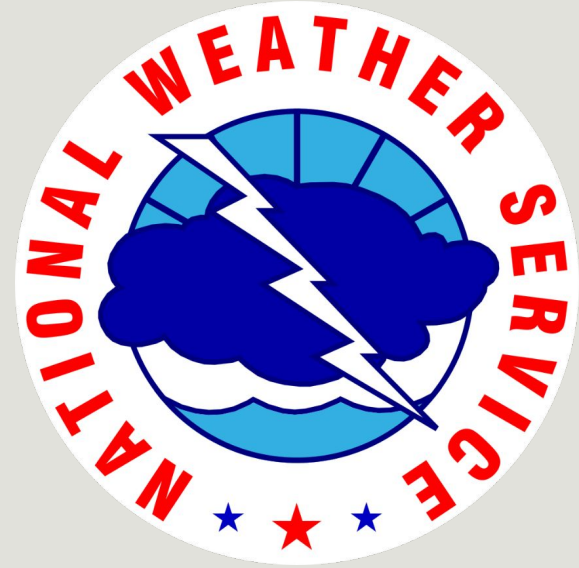
TORNADO...OBSERVED  
TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC

HAIL...<.75IN

# Halftime! 10-minute Break



Matt Grantham & Gerald Satterwhite





# Severe Thunderstorm Criteria



Any combination of:

- Winds of 58 mph or greater
- Hail 1" or larger in diameter
- A tornado

Other hazards:

- Lightning
- Flooding



Marcus Diaz

# Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Outlook Categories



General  
Thunder

**1** Marginal  
(MRGL)

**Severe storms will produce hail, damaging winds and/or possibly tornadoes**

Isolated Severe Storms are Possible

**2** Slight  
(SLGT)

**Severe storms will produce hail, damaging winds, and/or tornadoes**

Isolated to Scattered Severe Storms are Expected

**3** Enhanced  
(ENH)

**Several severe storms will produce very large hail, damaging winds, and/or tornadoes**

Scattered to Numerous Severe Storms are Expected

**4** Moderate  
(MDT)

**Many severe storms will produce very large hail, damaging winds, and/or tornadoes**

Scattered to Numerous Severe Storms are Expected

**5** High  
(HIGH)

**Severe storm outbreak will produce tornadoes, damaging winds, and/or very large hail**

Numerous Severe Storms are Expected

Severe\* Storms are not expected

Any thunderstorms could still produce gusty winds and small hail

w w w . w e a t h e r . g o v

**Remember: Severe storms don't care which category they are in. Severe weather is a threat in ALL of the numbered categories mentioned above.**

No Matter the Category, ALWAYS:  
Keep a watch on changing conditions. Monitor trusted weather sources.  
Ensure multiple ways of receiving weather warnings at ALL times day or night.  
Have a plan! Be ready to take shelter immediately.  
Be Weather-Ready! Things can go from bad to worse rapidly.

**All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding.**

\*NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts of at least 58 mph, and/or hail of at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado.

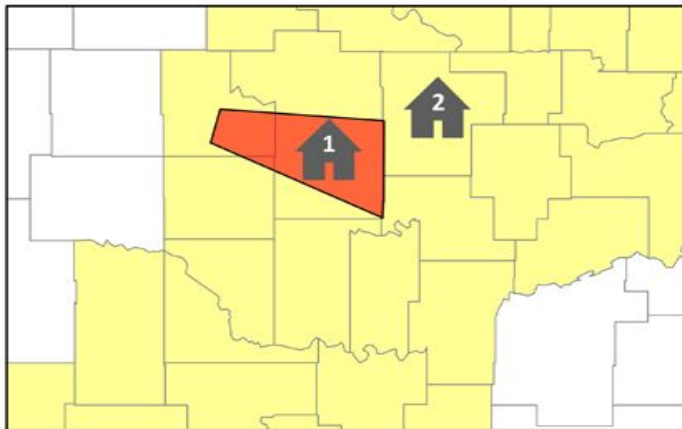
Categories are tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.



# Watch vs. Warning

**Watch:** Conditions are favorable for the development of severe storms over the next several hours. *Know where to shelter!*

**Warning:** Severe weather is likely to occur very soon or has been reported with a storm about to affect your area. *Take shelter!*



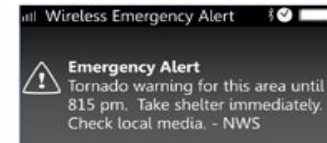
## Tornado Products

### Tornado Warning

Tornado expected! Seek shelter. A tornado is occurring or will shortly at this location on the map.

### Tornado Watch

Tornado possible. Be prepared. Weather conditions favor thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes at this location on the map.



**TACO WATCH**



**TACO WARNING**

# What to Report

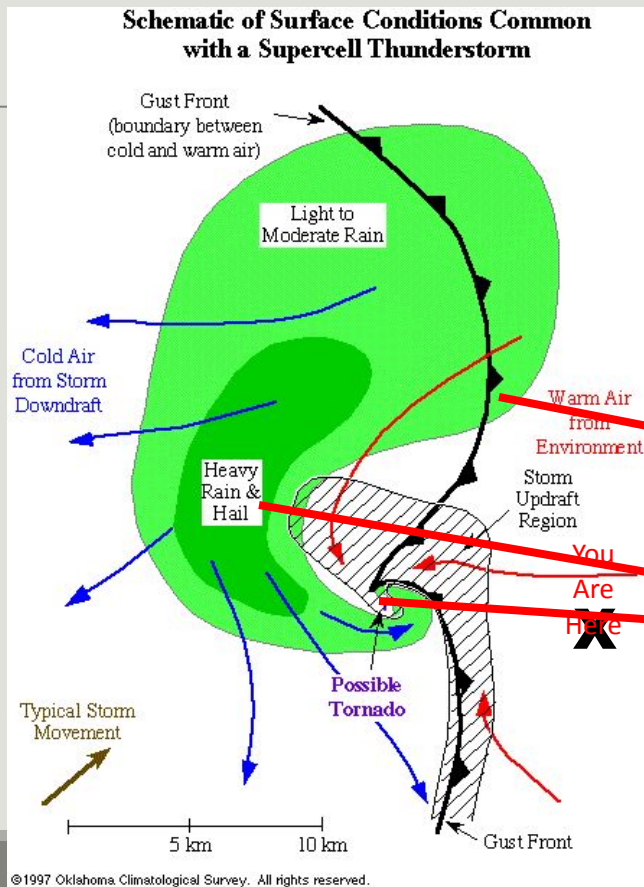
- **Strong or damaging winds** (Details about any damage. Estimated or measured wind?)
- **Hail** (Measure with a ruler or reference a common item such as a coin or sports ball)
- **Flooding** ( $\geq 6''$  in depth. Is the water standing or flowing? Are lives or property in danger? Rapidly rising waterways?)
- **Rotating wall cloud, funnel cloud, or tornado** (What is the distance and direction from your location? More on these features coming up.)

*Do not relay reports of what you are seeing/hearing on television or on your app.*

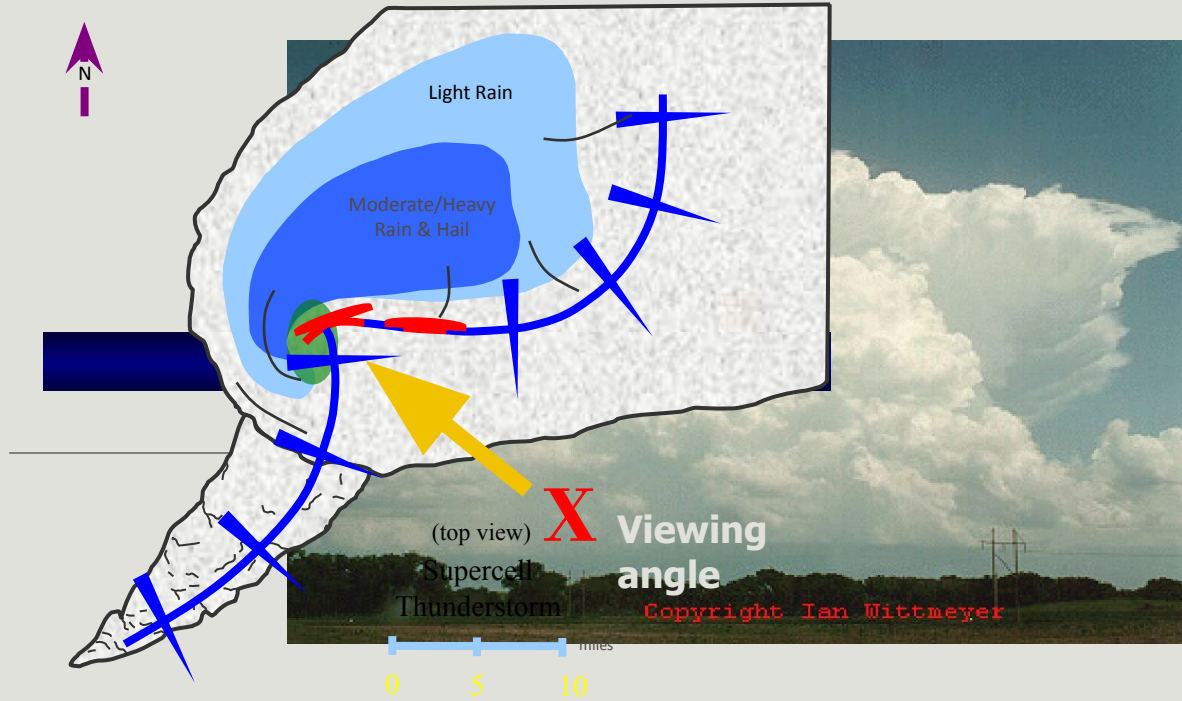




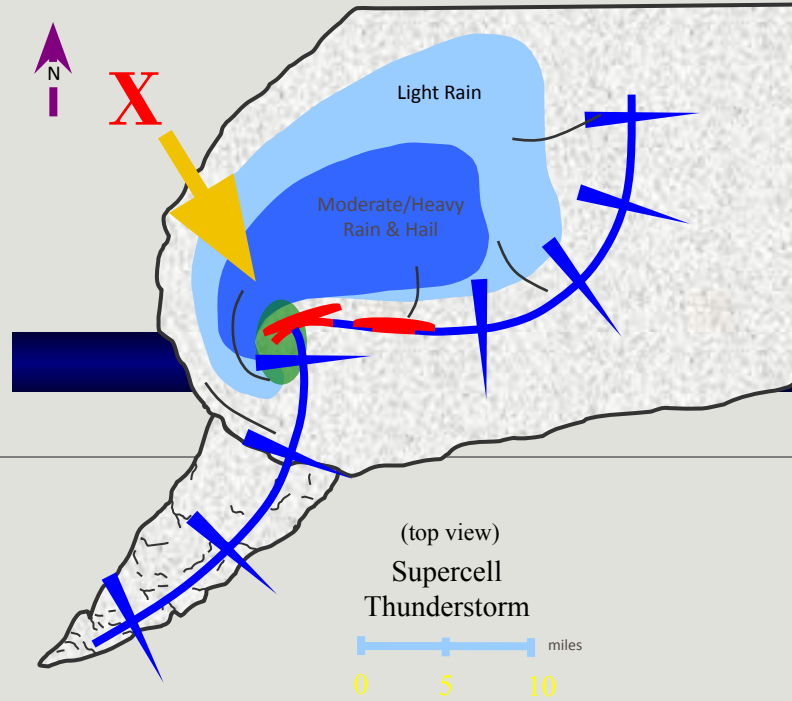
# What We Observe When Spotting Supercell



# Spotter Location



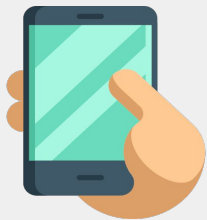
# NOT Ideal Spotter Location



# Wall Cloud -> Tornado Evolution



# Ways to Report to the NWS



## Phone

(205-664-3010,  
option 2)



**[weather.gov/bmx/  
submitstormreport](https://weather.gov/bmx/submitstormreport)**



## Twitter and Facebook

Direct message or tag us

Also use #alwx



## Amateur radio K4NWS

(Alabama Emergency  
Response Team)

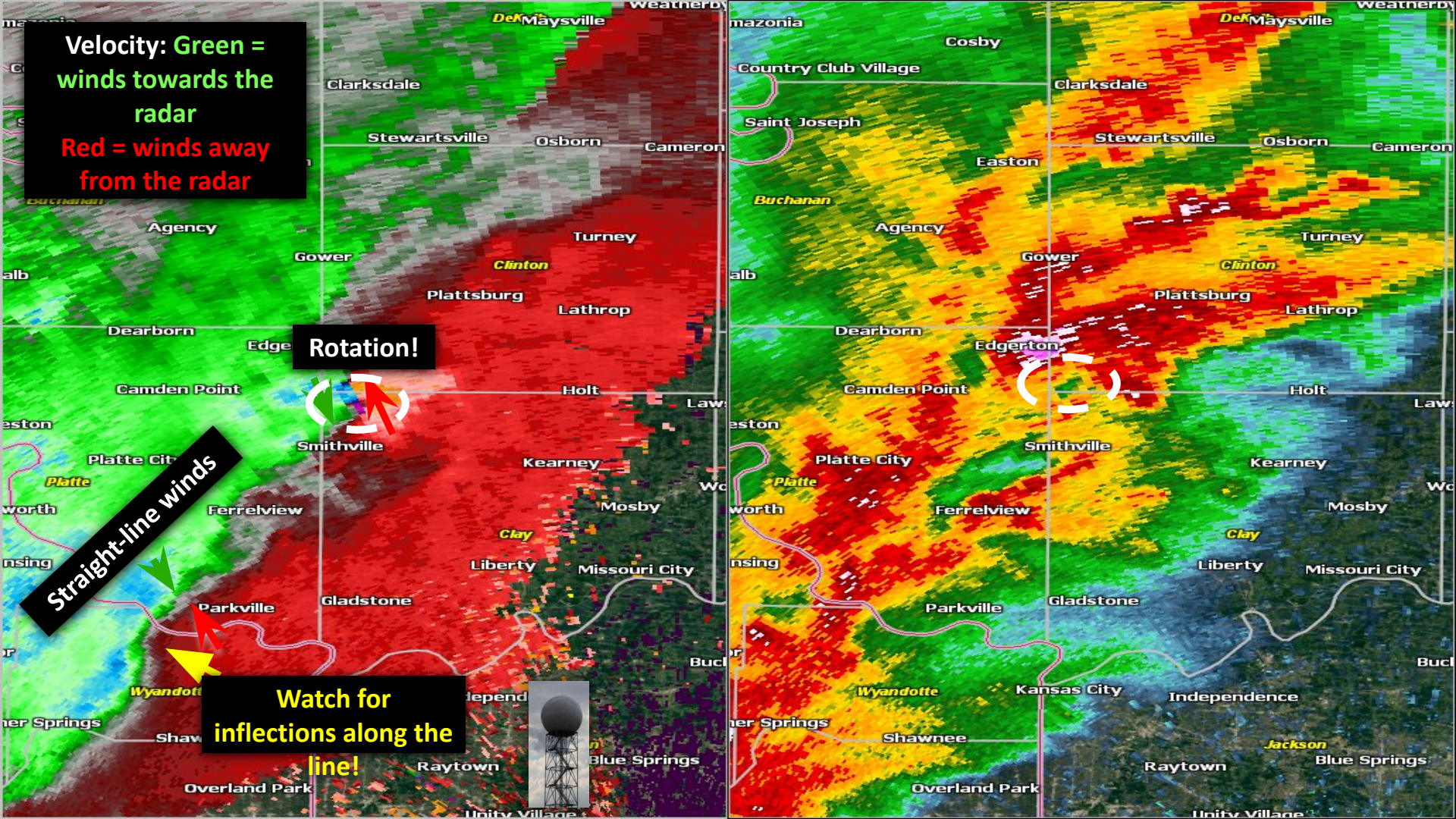
**Velocity: Green = winds towards the radar**  
**Red = winds away from the radar**

**Rotation!**

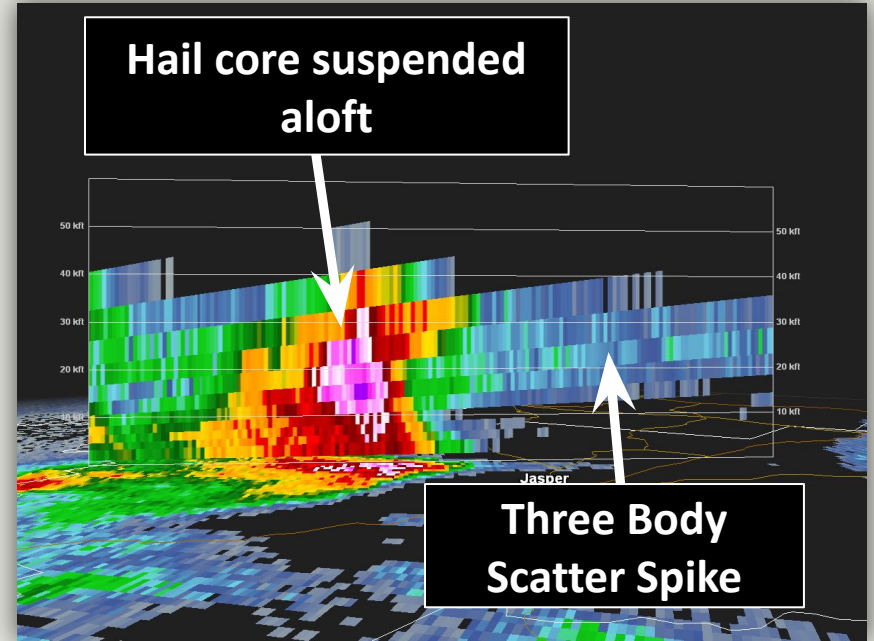
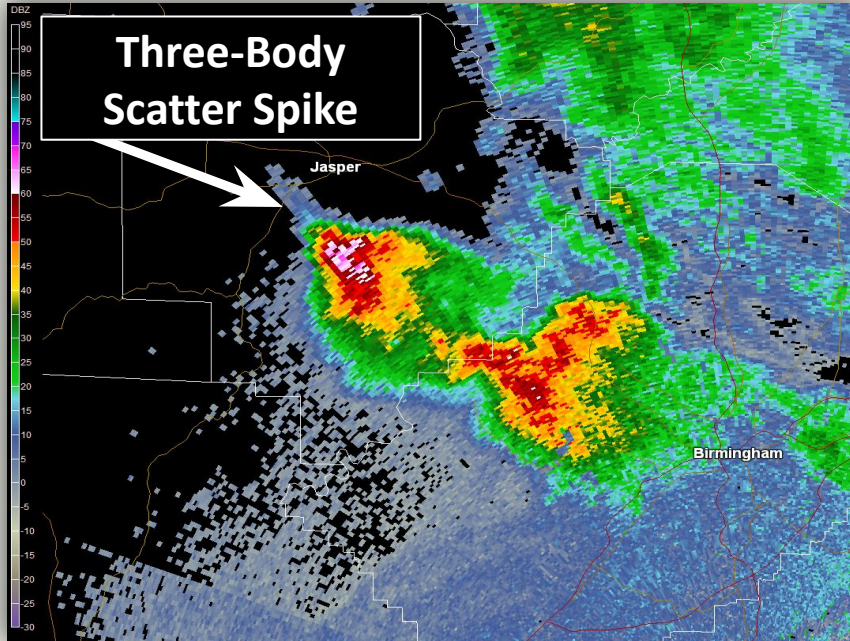


**Straight-line winds**

**Watch for inflections along the line!**



# Three Body Scatter Spike > Large Hail



# Vertical Wind Speed for Different Hail Sizes (updraft speeds)

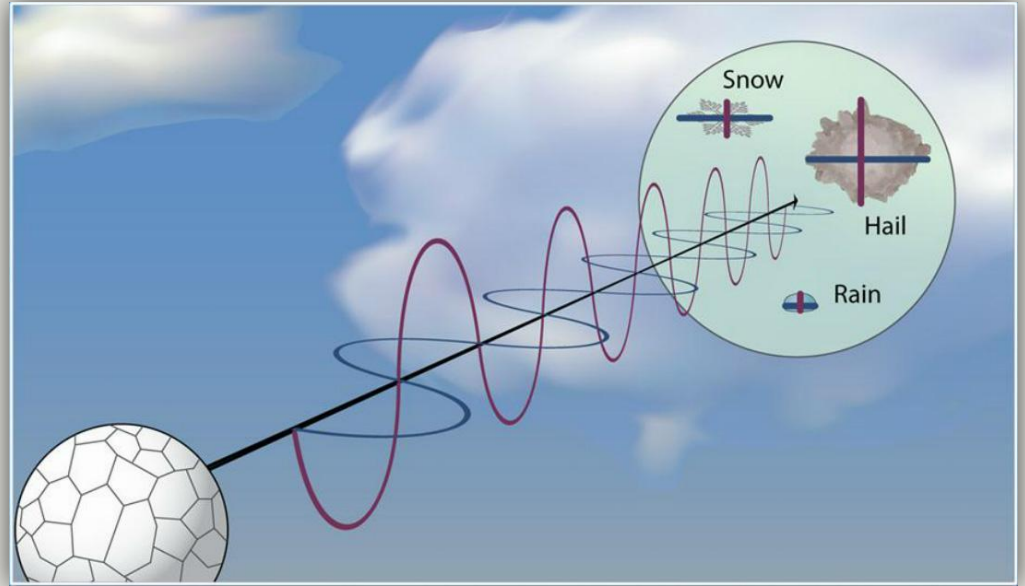
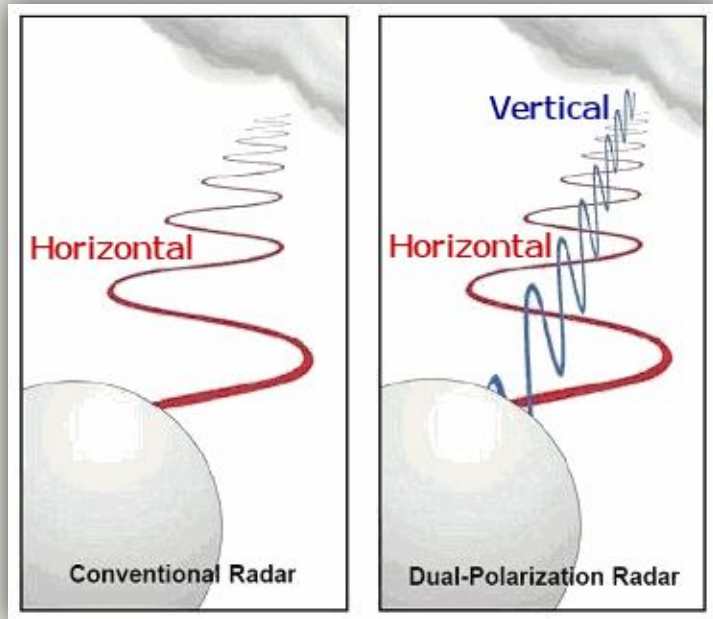
Hailstone size	Measurement		Updraft Speed	
	in.	cm.	mph	km/h
bb	< 1/4	< 0.64	< 24	< 39
pea	1/4	0.64	24	39
	1/2	1.3	35	56
dime	7/10	1.8	38	61
penny	3/4	1.9	40	64
nickel	7/8	2.2	46	74
quarter	1	2.5	49	79
half dollar	1 1/4	3.2	54	87
walnut	1 1/2	3.8	60	97
golf ball	1 3/4	4.4	64	103
hen egg	2	5.1	69	111
tennis ball	2 1/2	6.4	77	124
baseball	2 3/4	7.0	81	130
tea cup	3	7.6	84	135
grapefruit	4	10.1	98	158
softball	4 1/2	11.4	103	166



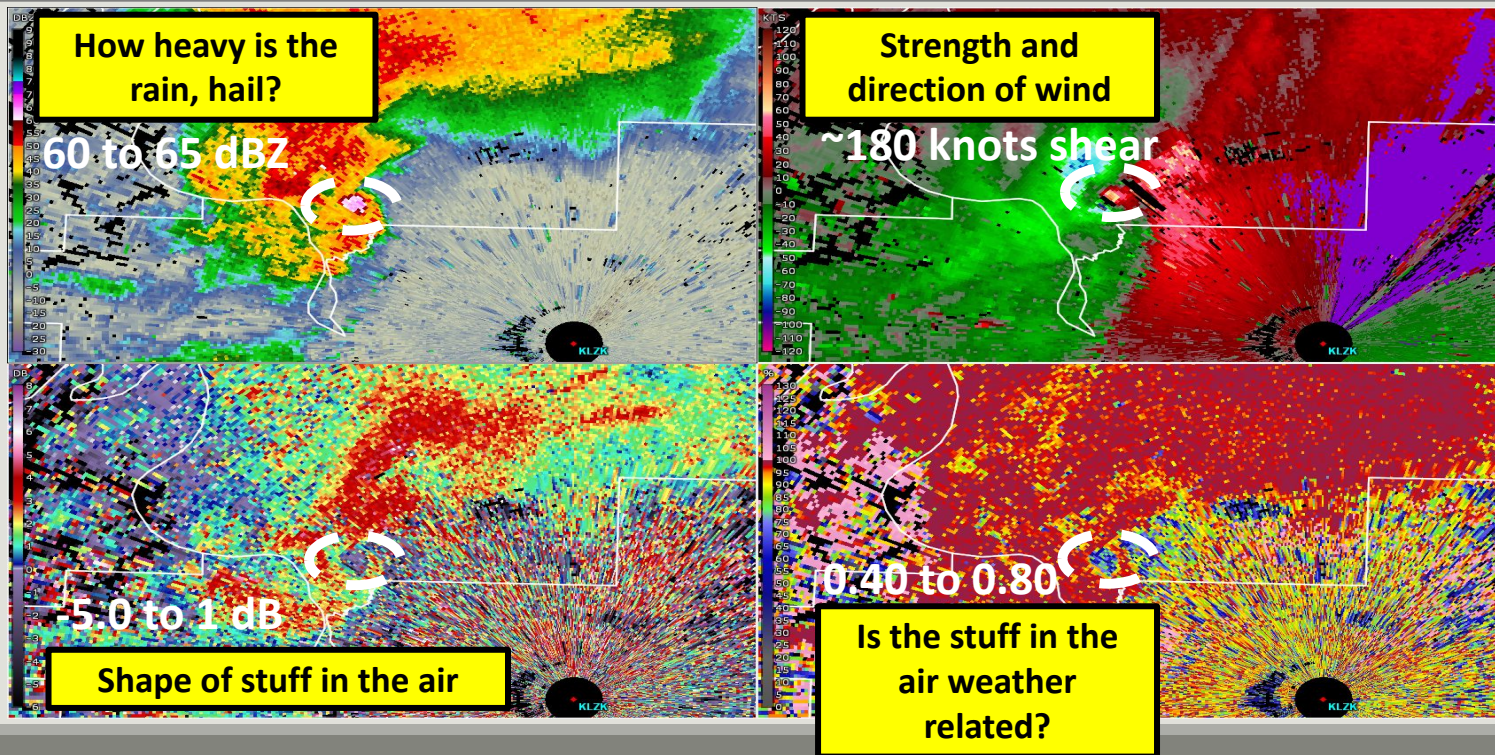


# Dual-polarization Radar

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# Confirming Tornado Debris on RADAR



# BEWARE: Not all 'Blue' on CC is Tornado Debris!

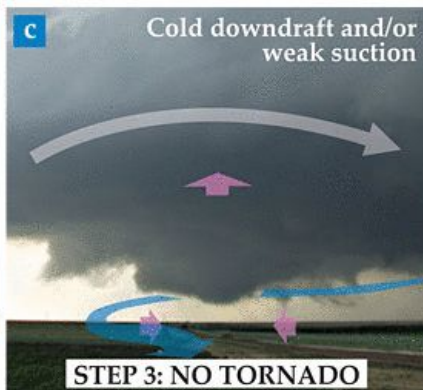
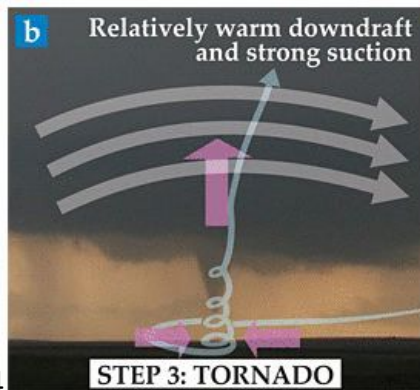
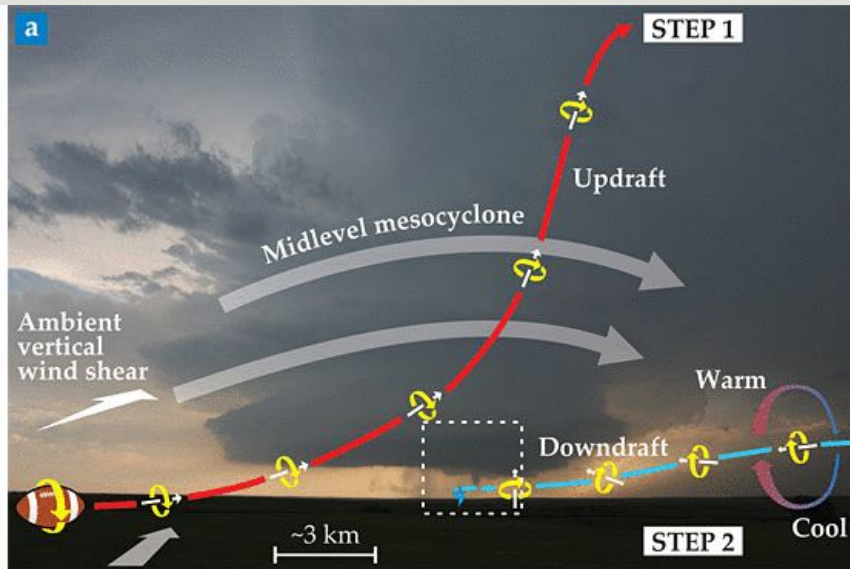
--This takes a trained eye--

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It could be...

- Contaminants in the inflow region
- Hail
- Noise in the data
- Non-uniform beam filling
- Terrain, communication towers, buildings, wind farms, etc.

**At minimum we must use a combination of reflectivity, velocity, and CC + RADAR scans over time and depth.**



Markowski and Richardson 2014

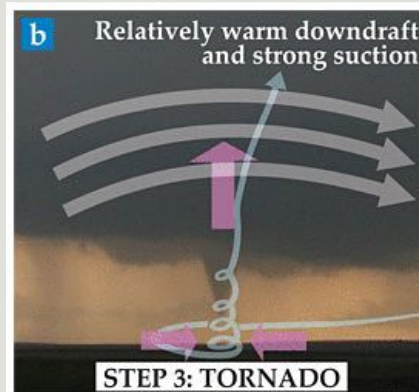
# Tornado pet peeves

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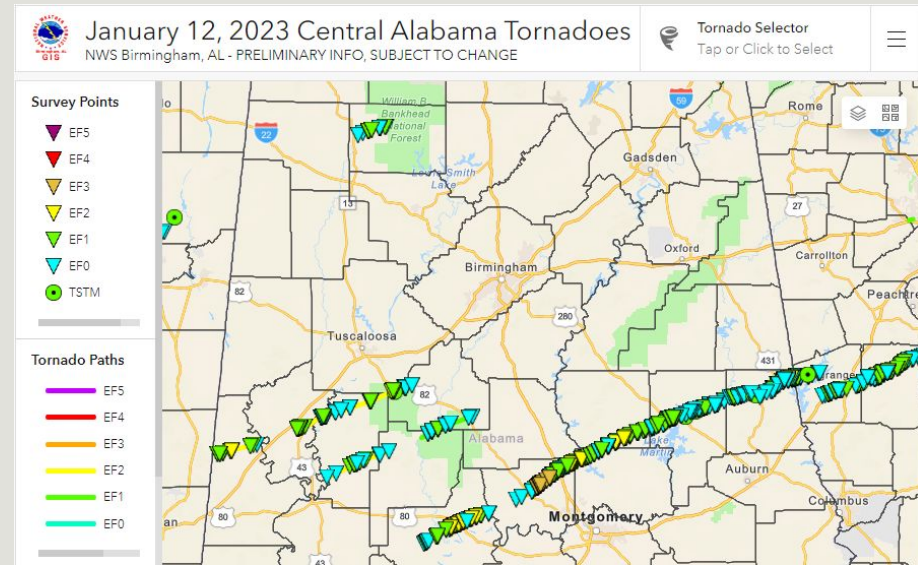
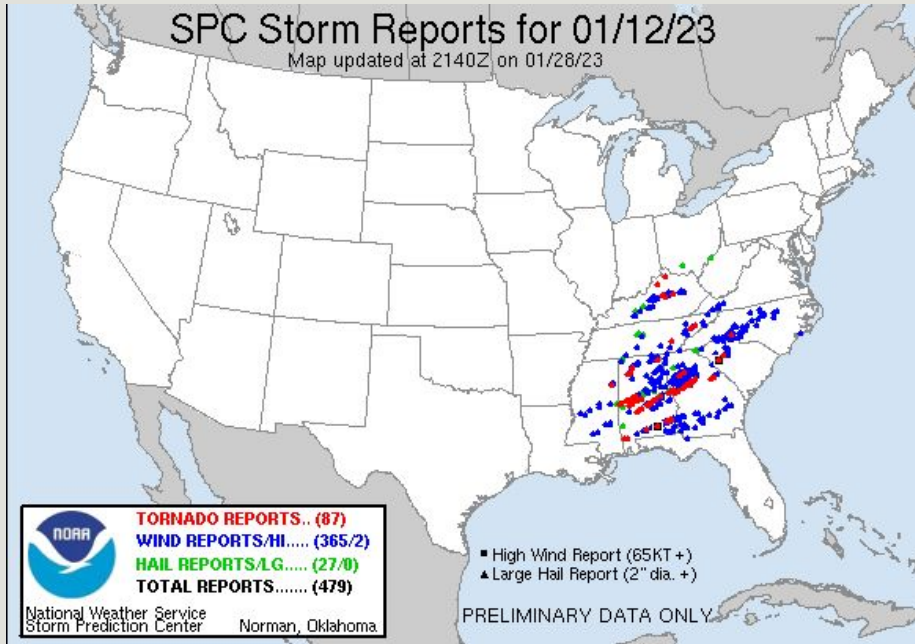
Tornadoes do not actually “touch down” and “lift”, they “spin up” and “dissipate”.

“The tornado was up in the tree tops but not on the ground”

- Weakest part of the tree is the top



# January 12, 2023 Case Review (Multiple strong long track tornadoes)



Observed wind speed	0-2 kts (0-2 mph)	3-7 kts (3-8 mph)	8-12 kts (9-14 mph)	13-17 kts (15-20 mph)	18-22 kts (21-25 mph)	23-27 kts (26-31 mph)	28-32 kts (32-37 mph)	33-37 kts (38-43 mph)	48-52 kts (55-60 mph)	53-57 kts (61-66 mph)	58-62 kts (67-71 mph)
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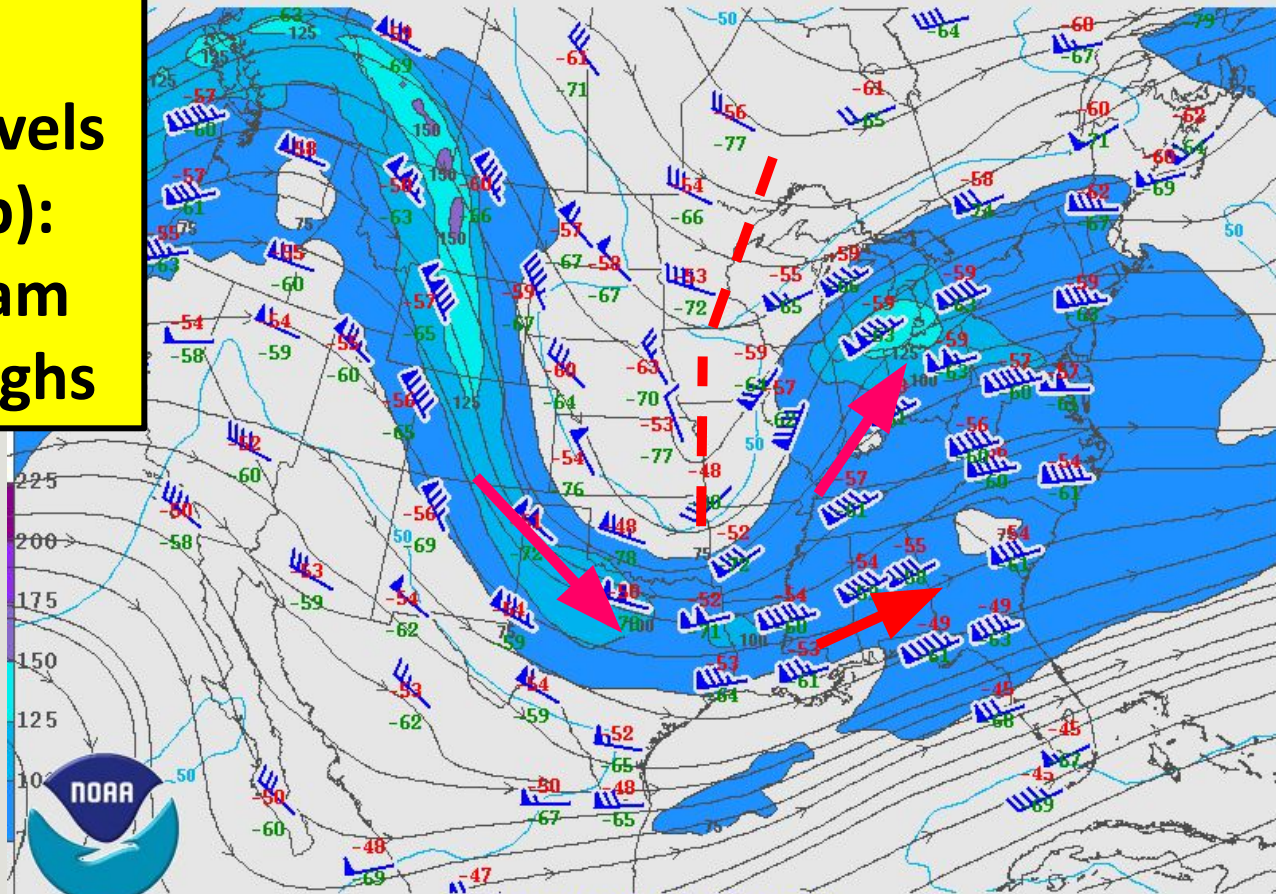
Rounded to the nearest 5	0 kts	5 kts	10 kts	15 kts	20 kts	25 kts	30 kts	35 kts	50 kts	55 kts	60 kts
--------------------------	-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Plotted as

Wind FROM 340° (NNW)    Wind FROM 040° (NE)    Wind FROM 190° (S)



**6a:  
Upper-levels  
(250mb):  
jet stream  
and troughs**



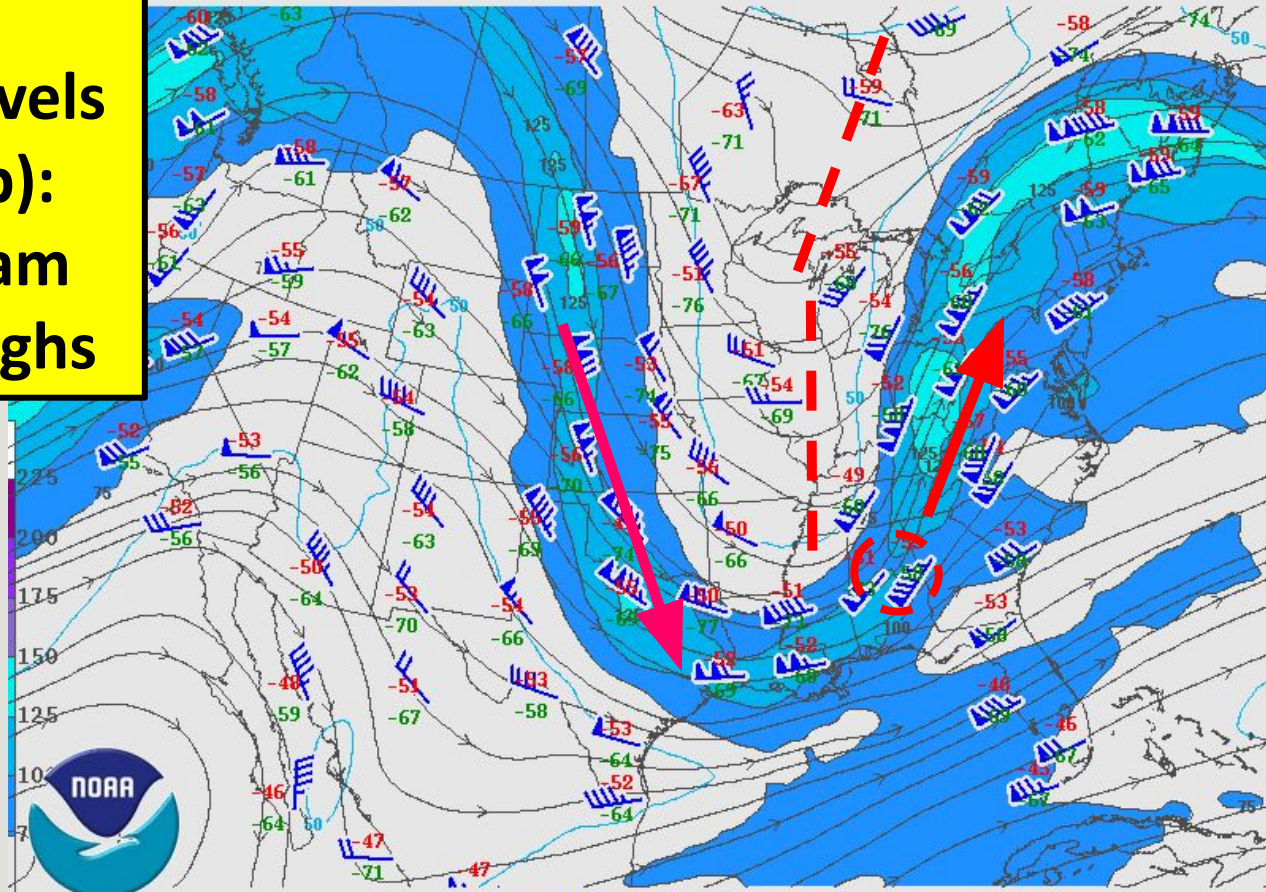
230112/1200 250 MB UA OBS AND ISOTACHS

<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/obswx/maps/>

National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center



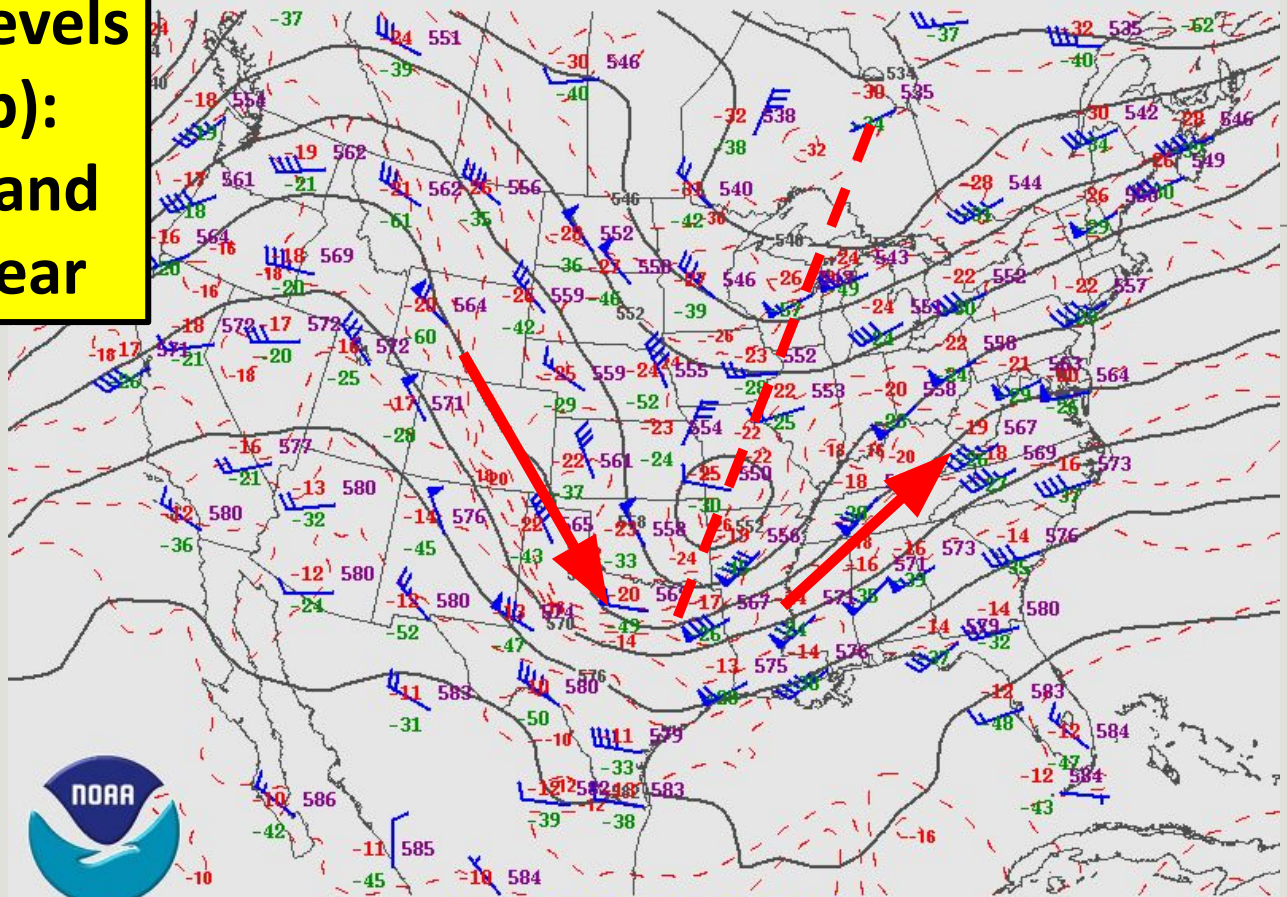
**6p:  
Upper-levels  
(250mb):  
jet stream  
and troughs**



National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center

230113/0000 250 MB UA OBS AND ISOTACHS

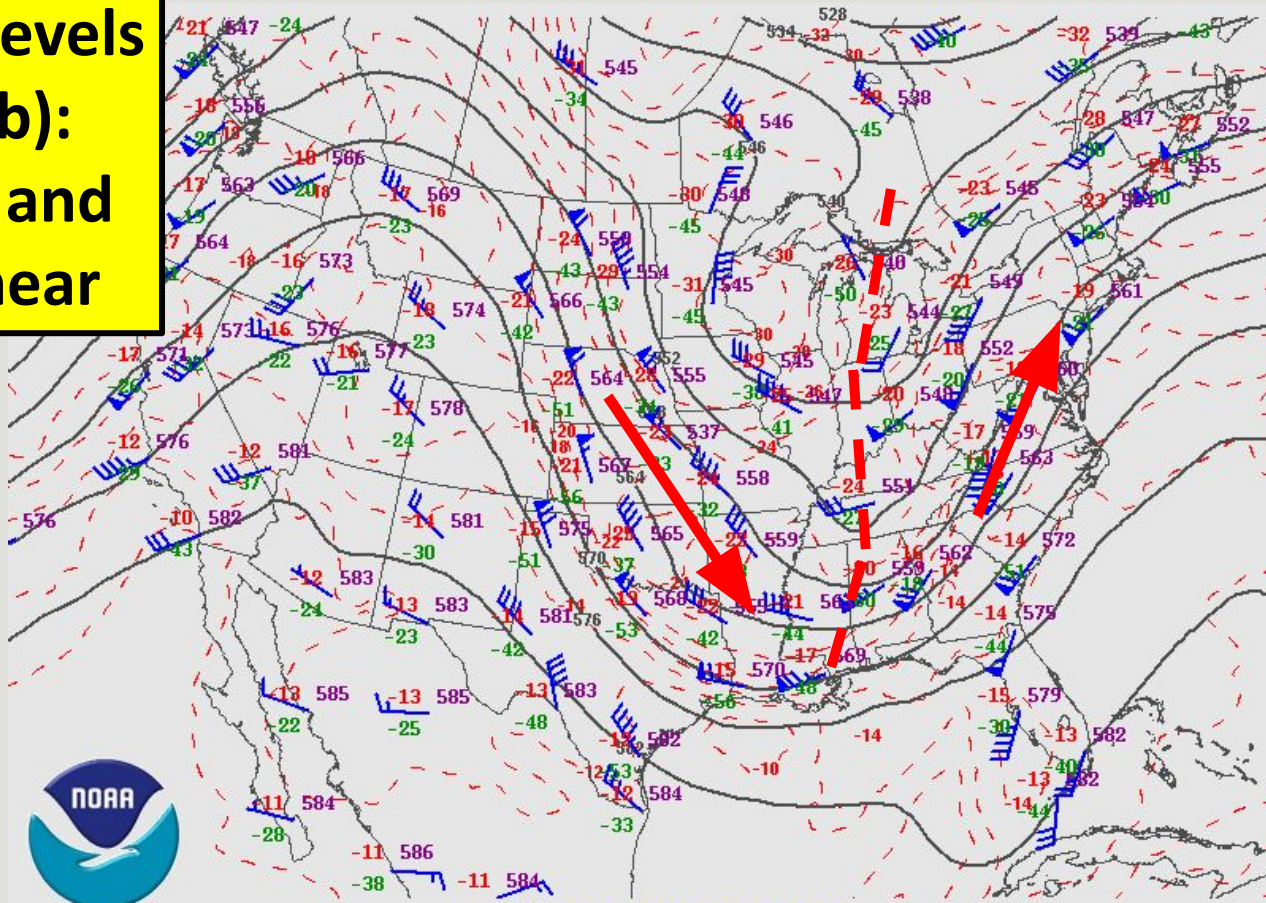
**6a: Mid-levels  
(500mb):  
troughs and  
wind shear**



National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center

230112/1200 500 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, and TEMPS

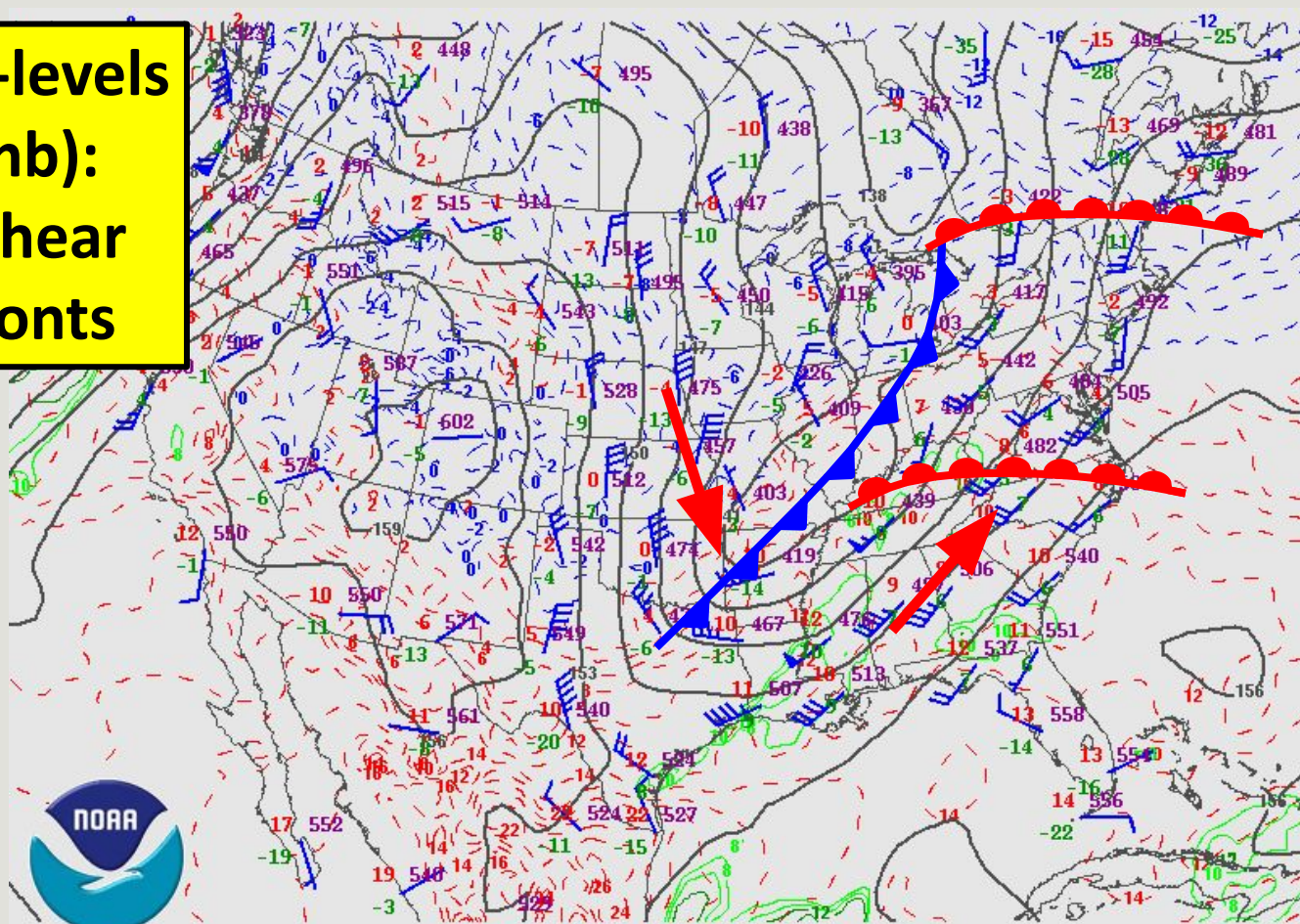
# 6p: Mid-levels (500mb): troughs and wind shear



National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center

230113/0000 500 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, and TEMPS

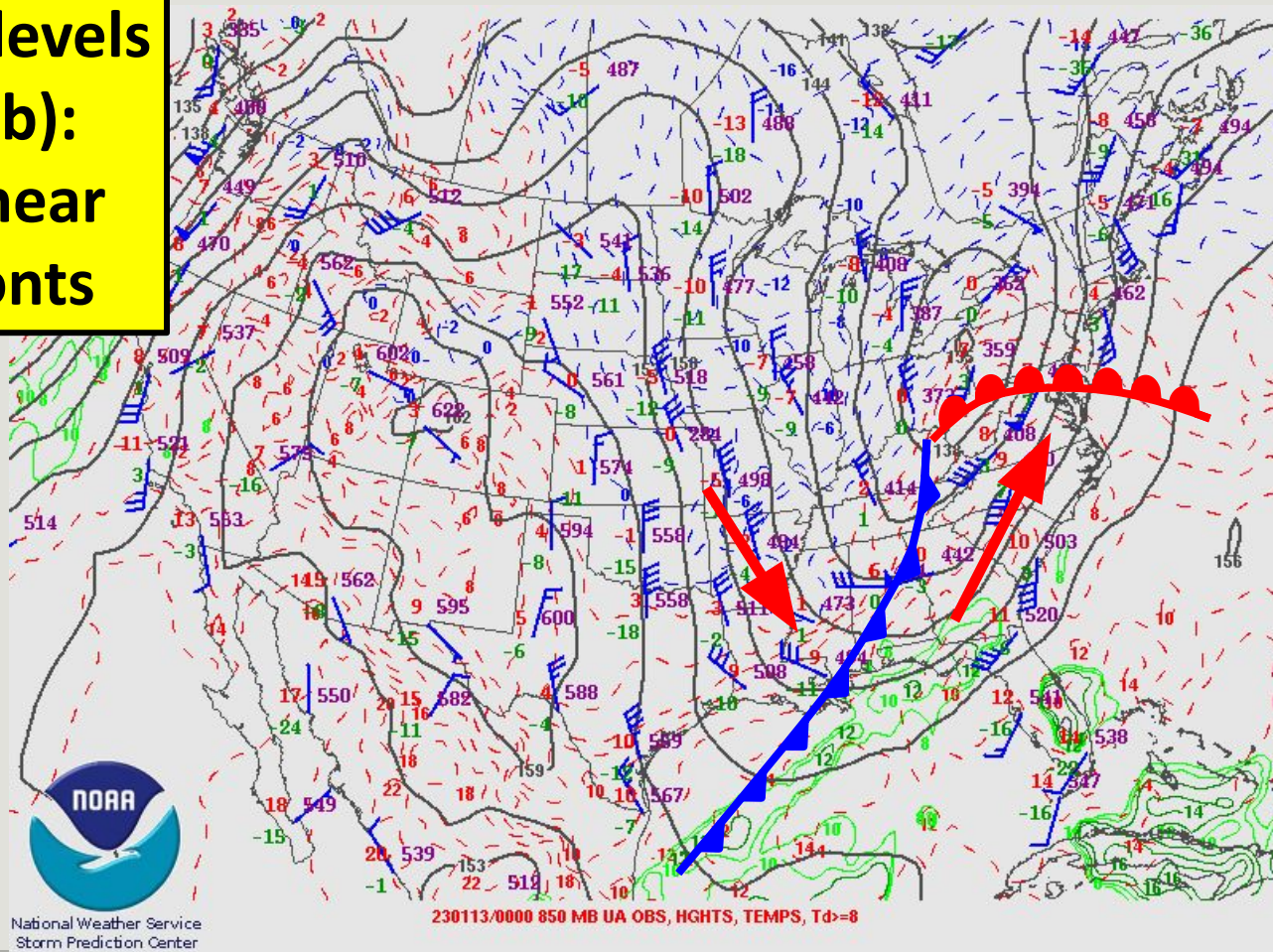
# 6a: Low-levels (850mb): wind shear and fronts



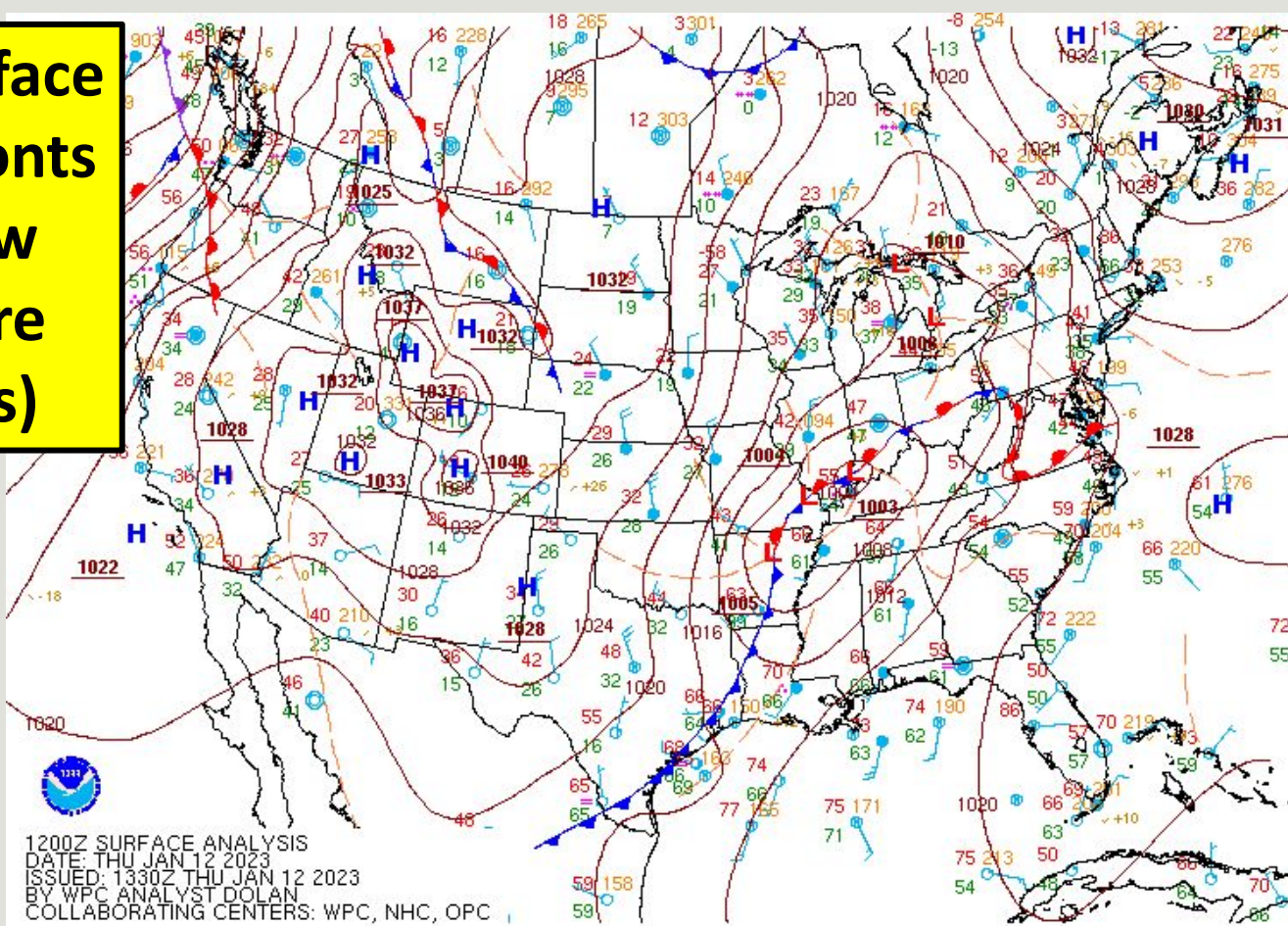
National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center

230112/1200 850 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, TEMPS, Td>=8

# 6p: Low-levels (850mb): wind shear and fronts

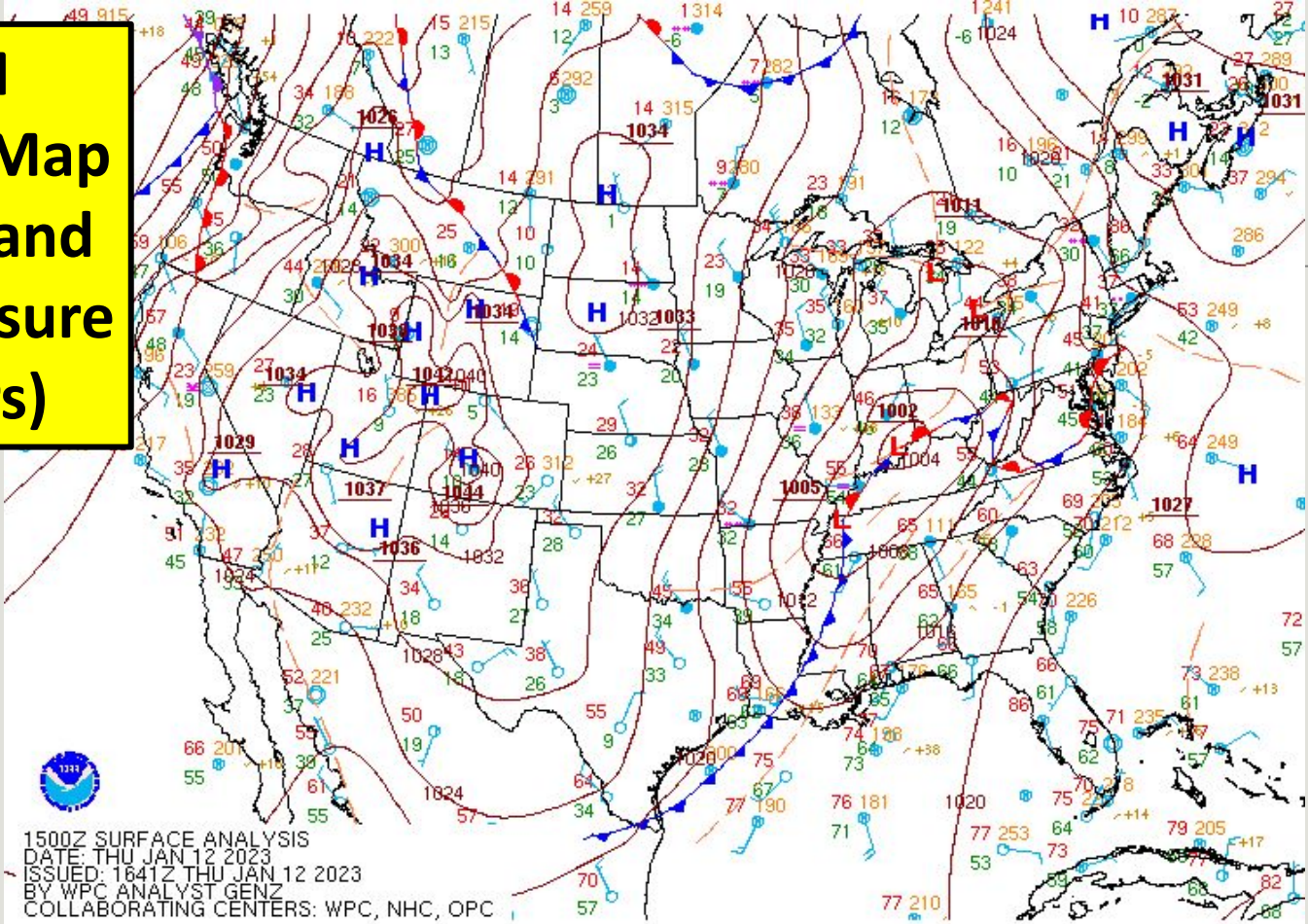


# 6AM Surface Map (Fronts and low pressure centers)



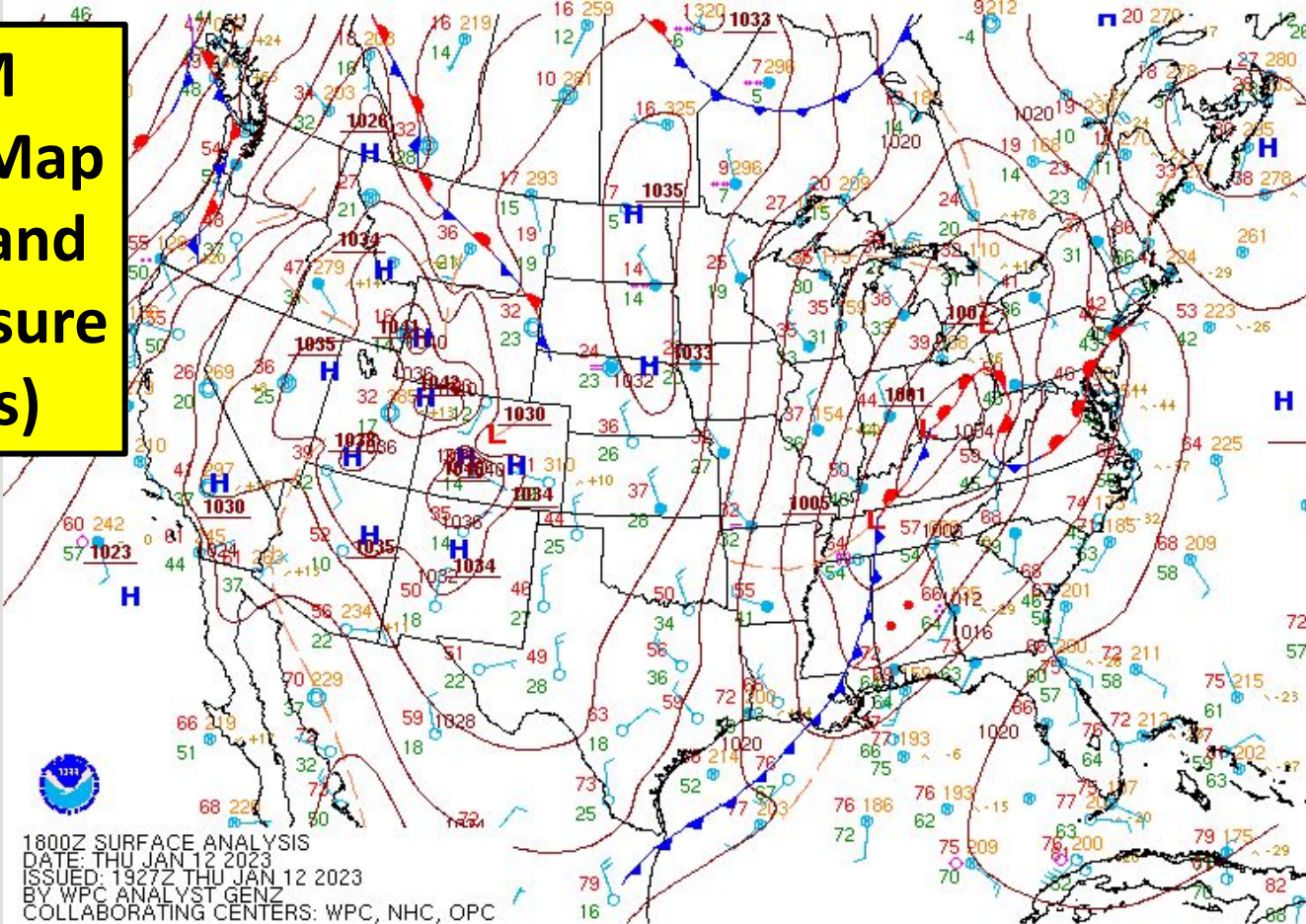
<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/html/sfc2.shtml>

**9 AM  
Surface Map  
(Fronts and  
low pressure  
centers)**



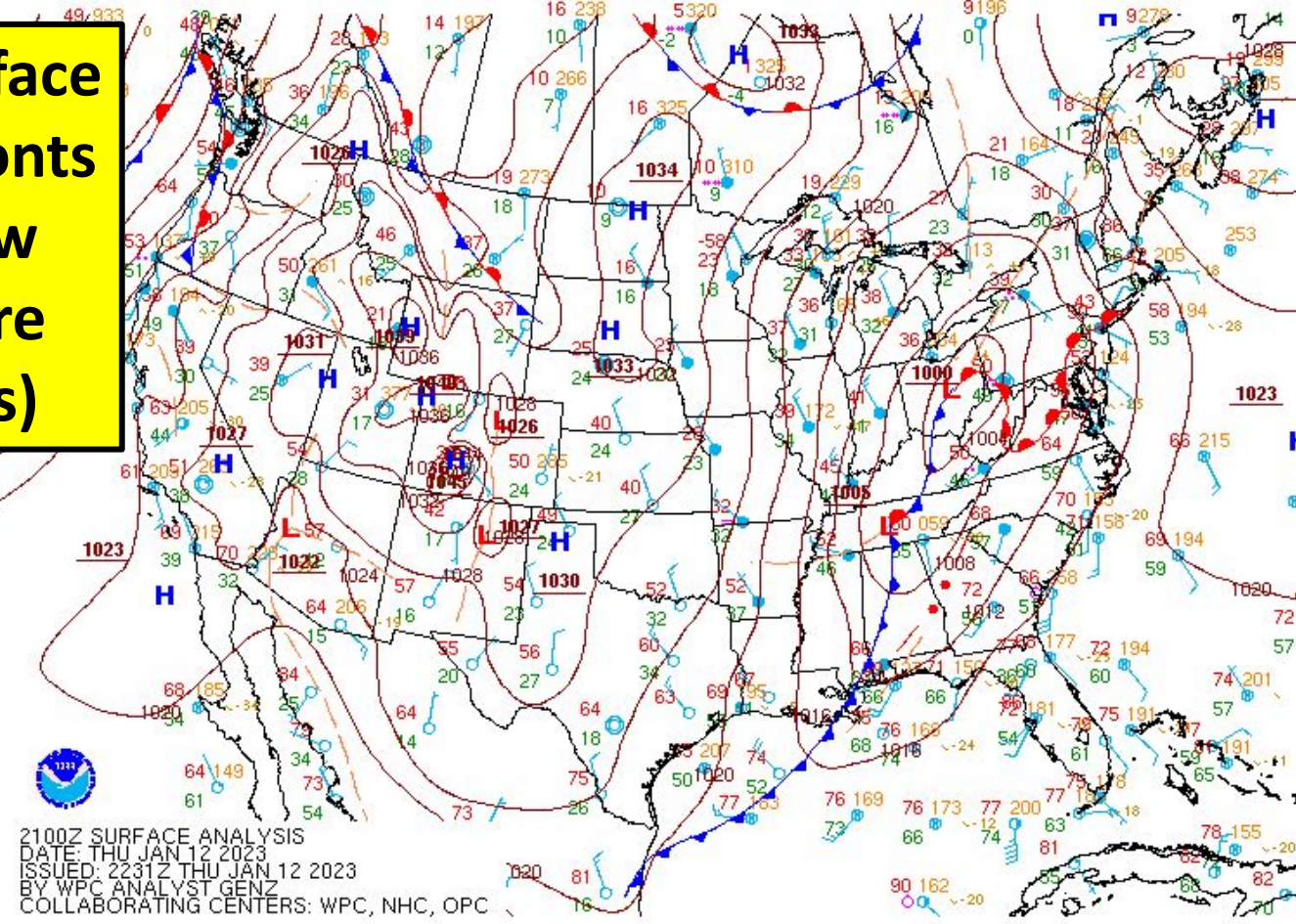
1500Z SURFACE ANALYSIS  
DATE: THU JAN 12 2023  
ISSUED: 1641Z THU JAN 12 2023  
BY WPC ANALYST GENZ  
COLLABORATING CENTERS: WPC, NHC, OPC

**12 PM  
Surface Map  
(Fronts and  
low pressure  
centers)**

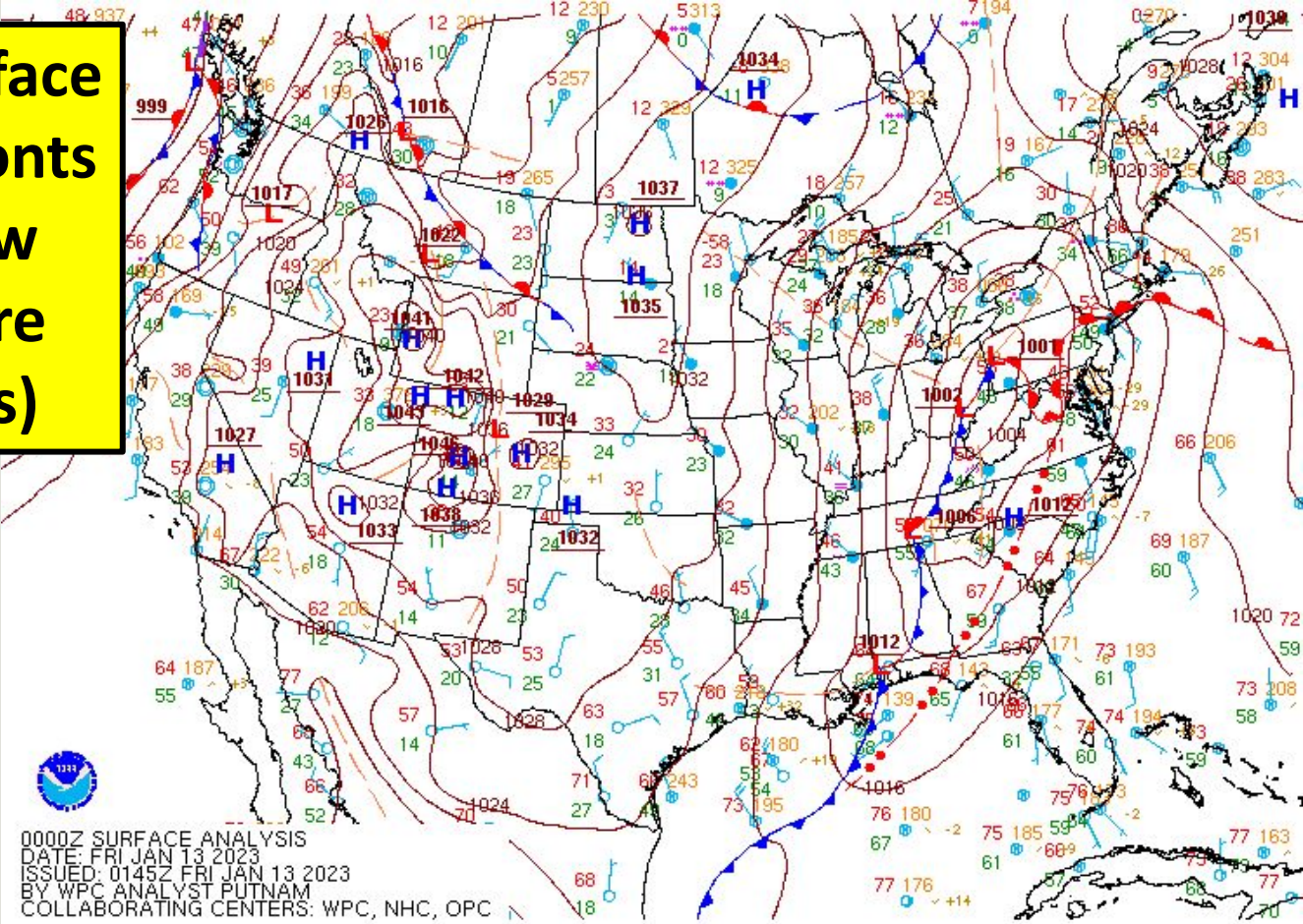




# 3PM Surface Map (Fronts and low pressure centers)

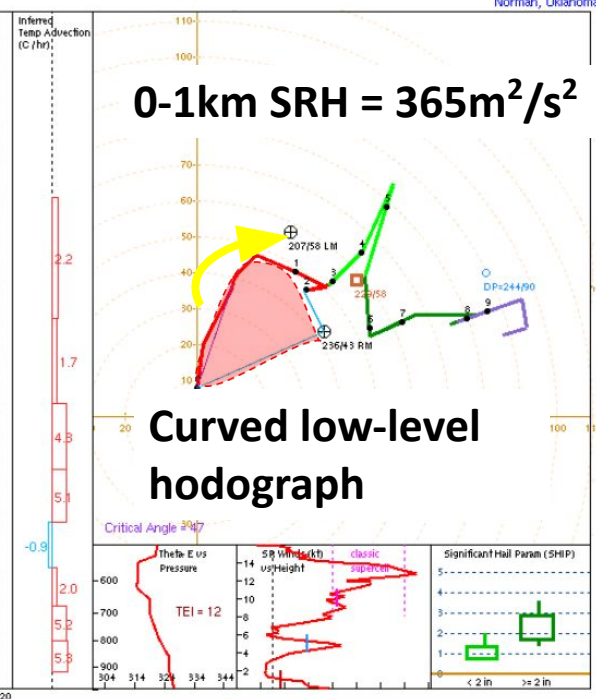
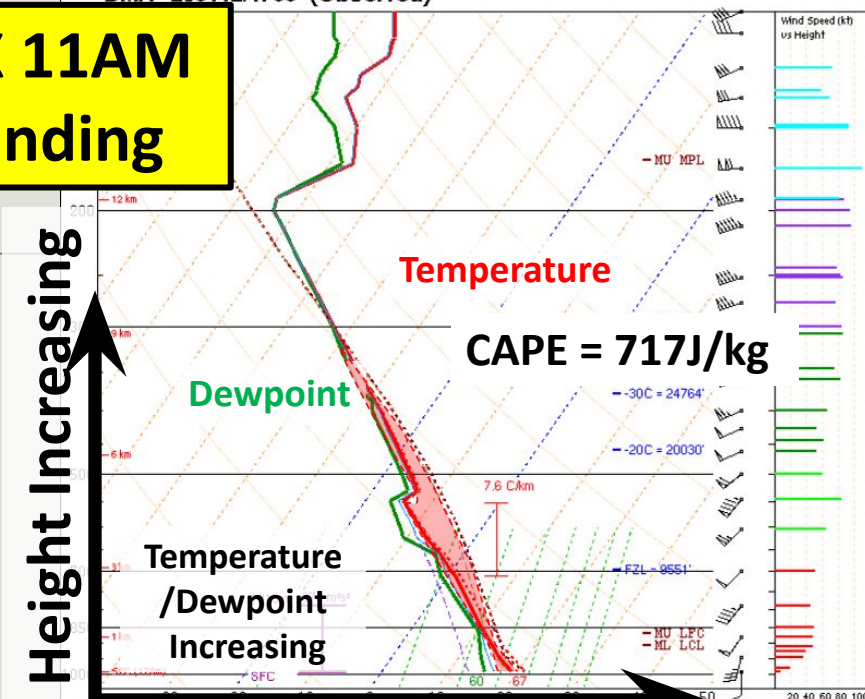


# 6PM Surface Map (Fronts and low pressure centers)



# BMX 11AM Sounding

<https://www.spc.naa.gov/exper/soundings/>



PARCEL	CAPE	CINH	LCL	LI	LFC	EL
SURFACE	717	-16	493m	-3	1120m	30379'
MIXED LAYER	570	-11	748m	-2	1295m	28127'
FCST SURFACE	1279	0	1180m	-5	1180m	35513'
MU (991 mb)	717	-16	493m	-3	1120m	30379'

FW = 1.28 in	3CAPE = 111 J/kg	WBZ = 9134'	WINDG = 0.0
K = 34	DCAPE = 494 J/kg	FZL = 9551'	ESP = 0.0
MidRH = 90%	DownT = 55 F	ConvT = 71 F	MMP = 0.95
LowRH = 86%	MeanW = 10.5 g/kg	MaxT = 75 F	NCAPE = 0.09
SigSevere = 14866 m3/s3			

Sfc-3km Agl Lapse Rate = 6.7 C/km	<b>Supercell = 5.4</b>
3-6km Agl Lapse Rate = 6.2 C/km	<b>Left Supercell = 1.3</b>
6-8km Agl Lapse Rate = 6.3 C/km	<b>STP (eff layer) = 1.4</b>
850-500mb Lapse Rate = 6.3 C/km	<b>STP (fix layer) = 1.5</b>
700-500mb Lapse Rate = 6.2 C/km	<b>Sig Hail = 0.0</b>

SRH(m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	Shear(kt)	MnWind	SRW
SFC - 1 km	365	42	199/35
SFC - 3 km	401	48	214/42
Eff Inflow Layer	374	40	210/39
SFC - 6 km	51	51	219/49
SFC - 8 km	77	77	223/49
LCL - EL (Cloud Layer)	69	69	226/55
Eff Shear (EBWD)	74	74	217/47
BRN Shear = 105 m/s <sup>2</sup>			
4-6km SR Wind = 209/30 kt			

Storm Motion Vectors	
Bunkers Flight = 236/43 kt	
Bunkers Left = 207/58 kt	
Corfidi Downshear = 244/90 kt	
Corfidi Upshear = 265/32 kt	

\*\*\* BEST GUESS PRECIP TYPE \*\*\*

**Rain.**  
Based on sfc temperature of 66.9 F.

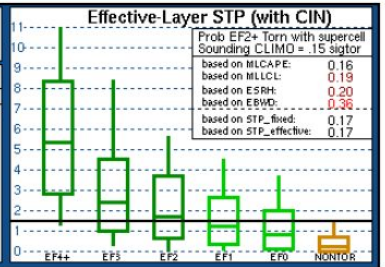
**SARS - Sounding Analogs**

SUPERCCELL	SGFNT HAIL
02031000.050	0.88

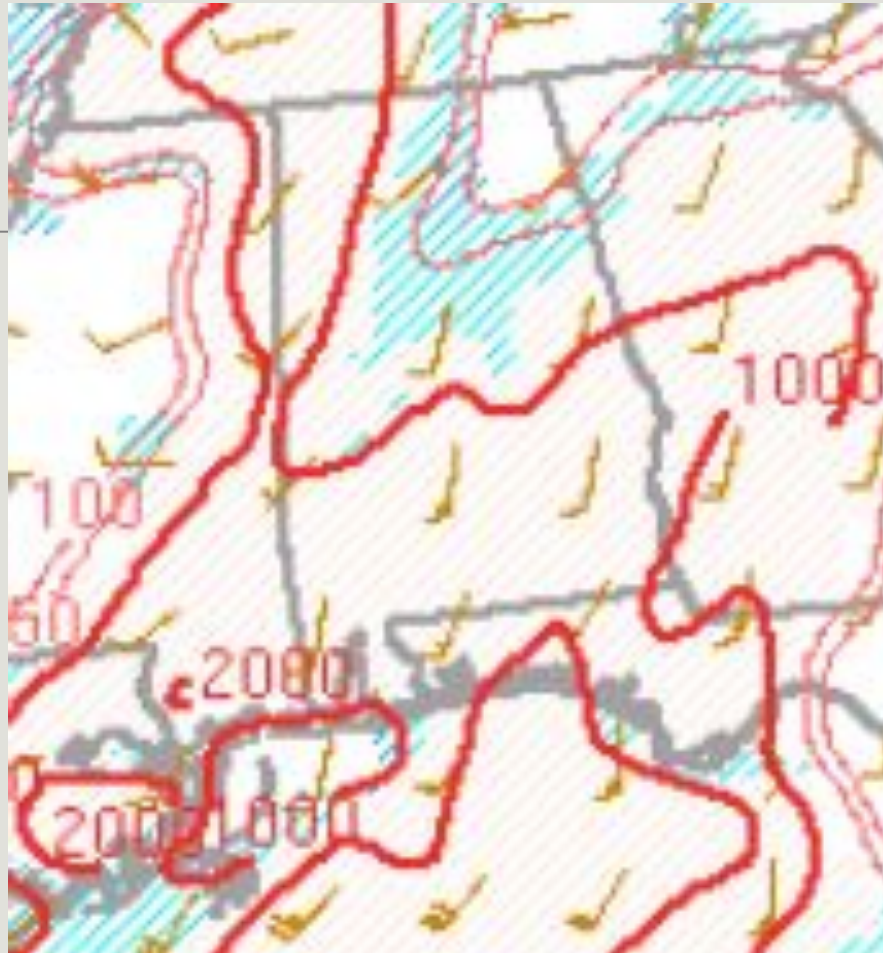
No Quality Matches

(23 loose matches) SARS: 61% TOR

(6 loose matches) SARS: 17% SIG



**Convective  
Available  
Potential  
Energy  
(CAPE):  
~1000 J/kg**

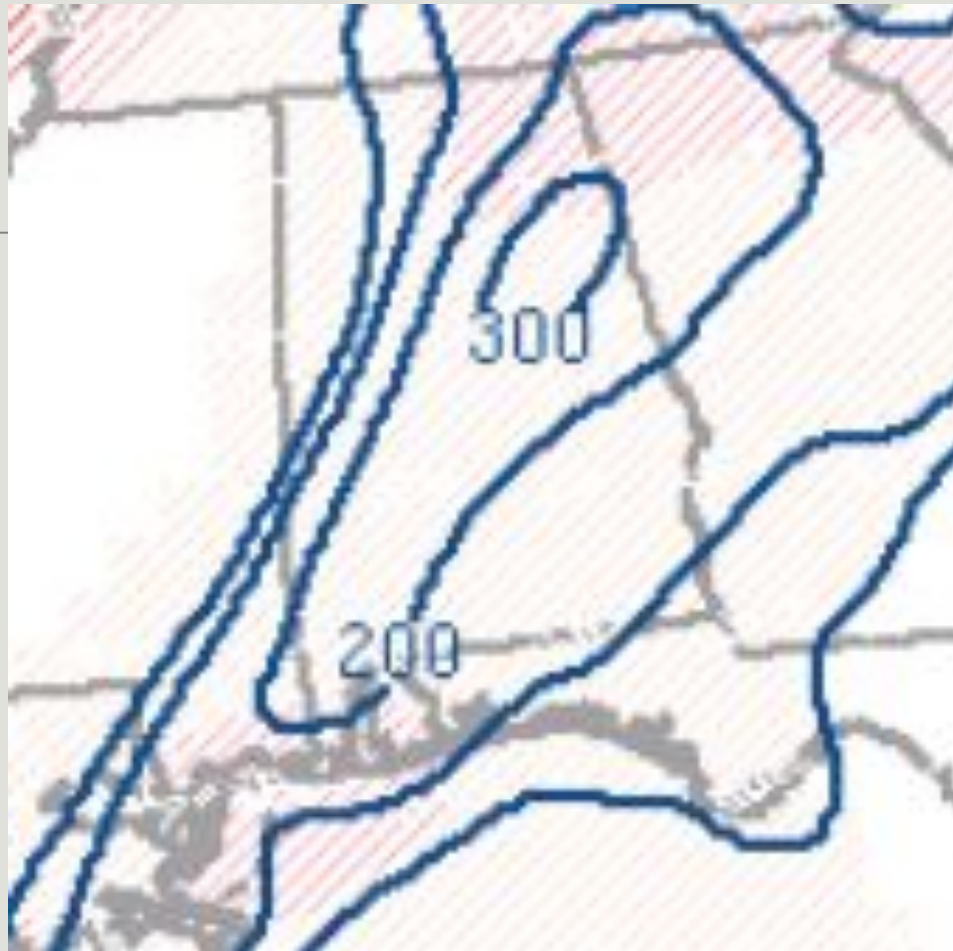


<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/mesoanalysis/>

**0-6km bulk  
wind shear:  
~70 kts**



**Effective  
storm  
relative  
helicity  
(SRH):  
~200-300  
 $\text{m}^2/\text{s}^2$**



**Significant  
Tornado  
Parameter  
(STP):  
~1-2**



# Severe Weather Outlook

## Severe Storms Possible

Thursday (7 AM - 6 PM)

Weather Forecast Office  
Birmingham, AL

Issued January 11, 2023 2:15 PM CT



### Threats

**Slight Risk:** Damaging winds up to 60 mph/A tornado or two possible/Quarter size hail

**Marginal Risk:** Threats mentioned above are less likely but cannot be completely ruled out





# Severe Weather Outlook

## Severe Storms Likely

Today (7 AM - 6 PM)

Weather Forecast Office  
Birmingham, AL

Issued January 12, 2023 4:11 AM CT



### Threats

**Enhanced Risk:** Damaging winds up to 70 mph/Tornadoes/Quarter size hail

**Slight Risk:** Damaging winds up to 60 mph/Tornado or two possible/Quarter size hail

#### Threat Area



#### Threat Timing



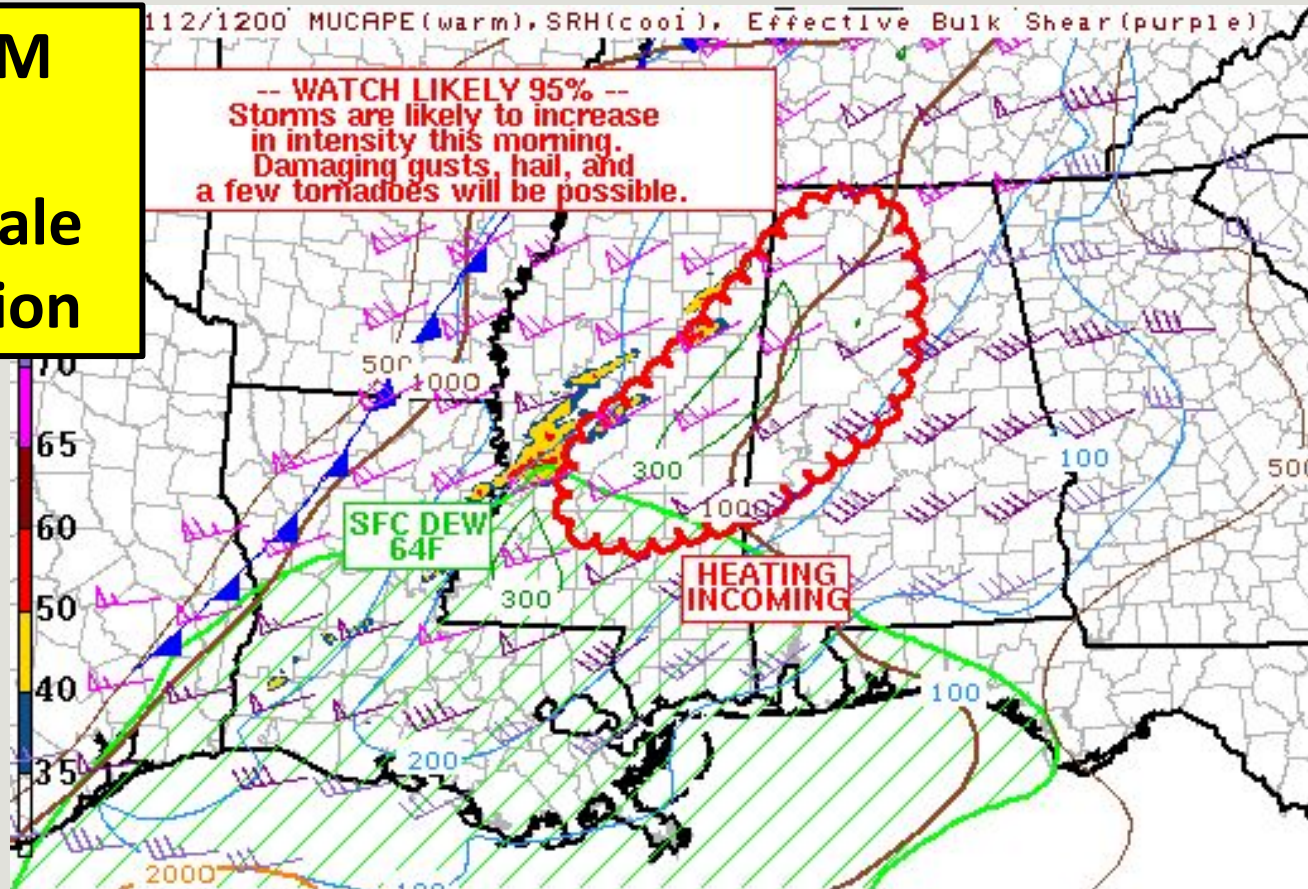
6:38 AM

SPC

Mesoscale  
Discussion

112/1200 MUCAPE(warm),SRH(cool), Effective Bulk Shear(purple)

-- WATCH LIKELY 95% --  
Storms are likely to increase  
in intensity this morning.  
Damaging gusts, hail, and  
a few tornadoes will be possible.



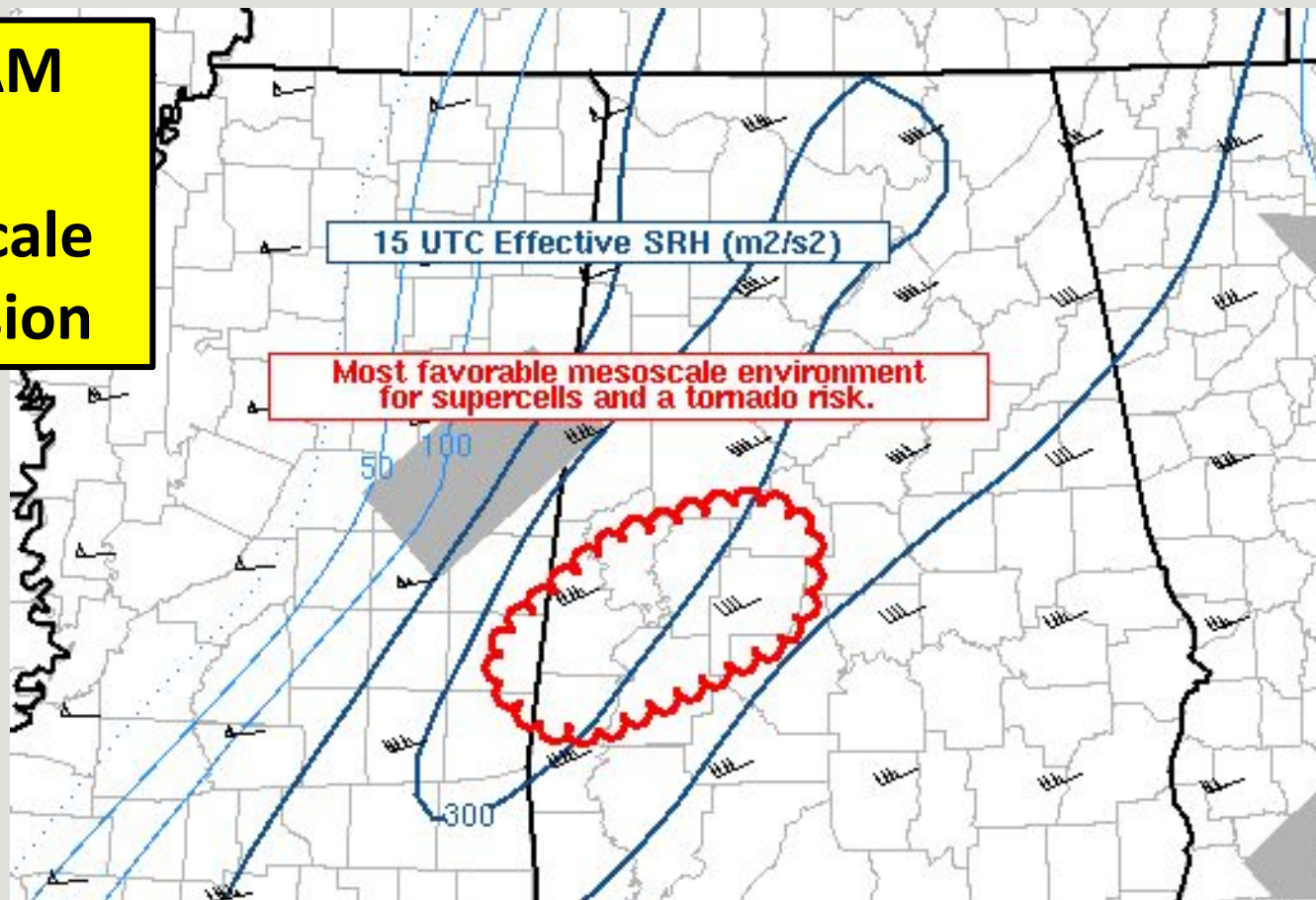
SPC MCD #0047

**6:55 AM  
SPC  
Tornado  
Watch**



**Tornado Watch # 17 - Valid from 655 AM until 100 PM CST**  
NOAA/NWS/Storm Prediction Center Updated: 20230112/1304 UTC

**9:54 AM  
SPC  
Mesoscale  
Discussion**



SPC MCD #0051

**10:20 AM**  
**SPC**  
**Tornado**  
**Watch**



**Tornado Watch # 20 - Valid from 1020 AM until 500 PM CST**

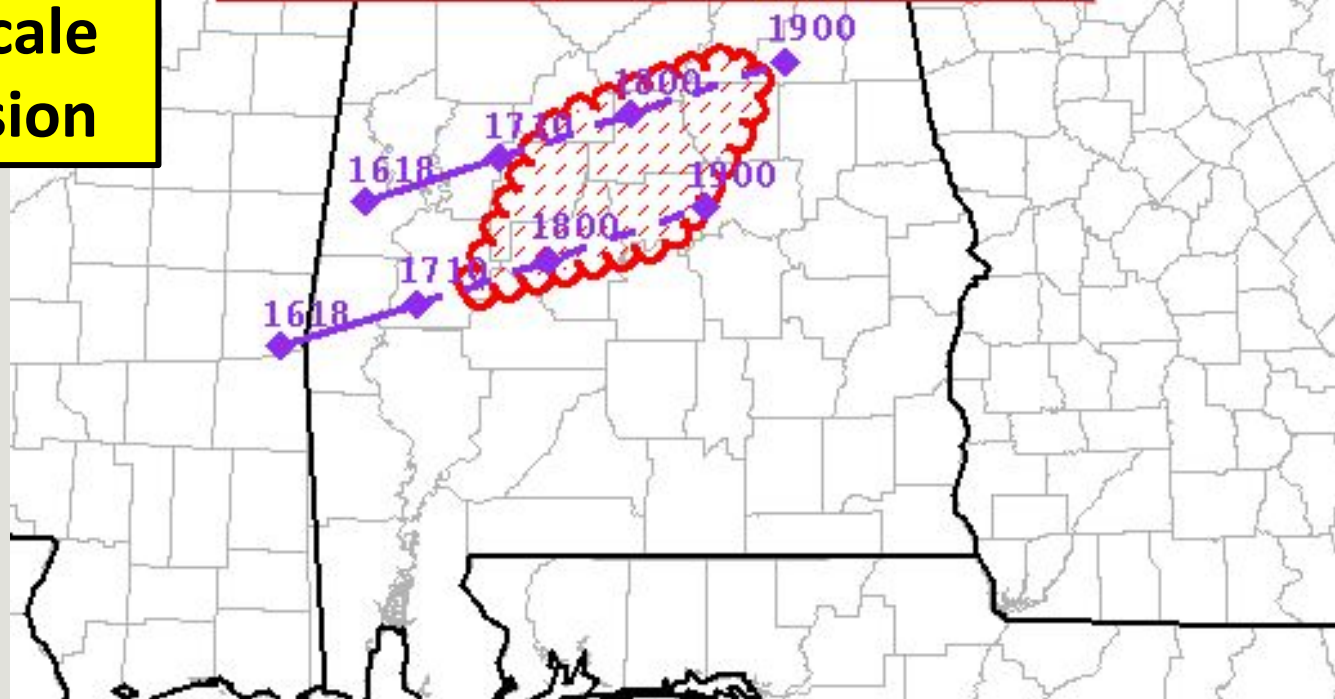
11:36 AM

SPC

Mesoscale

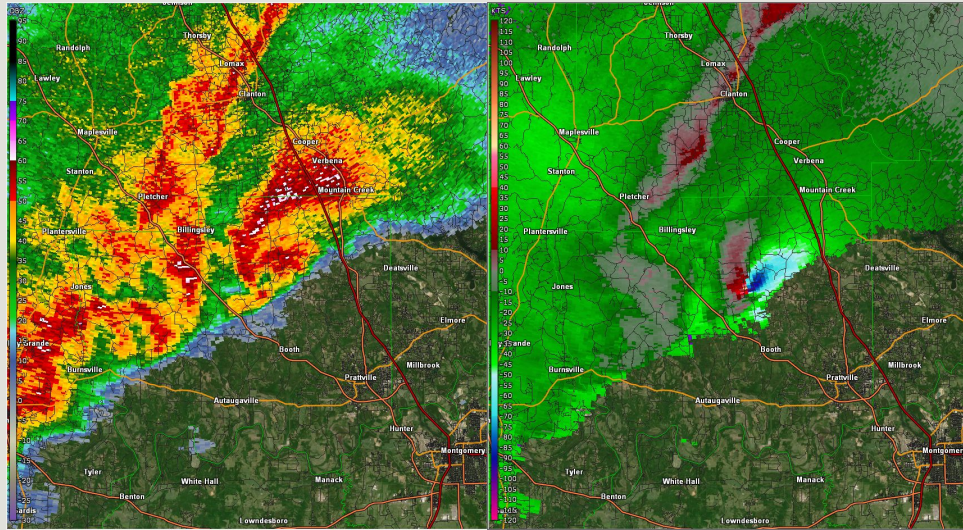
Discussion

Tornado risk will continue to focus  
over central AL through 19 UTC (1pm CST).  
A strong tornado is possible.



SPC MCD #0053

# Radar Images



# Further Training

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- COMET MetEd Modules (<https://www.meted.ucar.edu/index.php>)
  - Hundreds of free modules about all kinds of meteorological topics
- SPC Video Lecture series (<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/spcousom/>)
  - Collection of lectures on severe storms from Storm Prediction Center forecasters and others given to a University of Oklahoma class
- NWS Warning Decision Training Branch Radar Applications Course (<https://training.weather.gov/wdtd/courses/rac/outline.php>) and Warning Operations Course (<https://training.weather.gov/wdtd/courses/woc/severe.php>)
  - Choose the “Web version” of each module which doesn’t require a login



# Additional Materials

Visit our SKYWARN spotter page for useful links and information: [weather.gov/bmx/skywarn](https://weather.gov/bmx/skywarn)

- This presentation in PDF format
- Spotter schedule
- Training materials
- Brochures and guides
- Certificate > [weather.gov/bmx/skywarncertificate](https://weather.gov/bmx/skywarncertificate)

