Some Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the difference between a SEVERE WEATHER WATCH and a WARNING?

Watches are issued from the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma

Warnings are issued from the Local National Weather Service....Joliet, Illinois

WATCH : 1-2 hours before actual thunderstorm development. Proceed through daily activities but keep an eye on the sky. Look in the direction that the wind is coming from.

WARNING: 15 - 30 minutes before any thunderstorms arrive. Sometimes only 5-10 mintues.

May see very gusty winds and darkening of the sky.

In order of magnitude: Tornado Warning....Severe T-Storm Warning

Tornado Watch.....Severe T-Storm Watch

SEVERE WEATHER CAN INCLUDE:

58 mph Winds **Can cause damage to small buidlings**

Break large branches, knock over small trees.

3 / 4 inch Hail **Can break windows. Major damage to crops in their early stage.**

Funnel Cloud **Basically, a tornado aloft that is about to reach the ground.**

Can especially be hazardous to building antennae and small boats.

Dr. Fujita and his staff showed the value of the scale's application by surveying every tornado from the Super Outbreak of April 3-4, 1974. The F-Scale then became the mainstay to define every tornado that has occurred in the United States. The F-Scale also became the heart of the tornado database that contains a record of every tornado in the United States since 1950.

OLD FUJITA SCALE		NEW FUJITA EF SCALE	
F0	40-72	F0	65-85
1	73-112	1	86-110
2	113-157	2	111-135
3	158-207	3	136-165
4	208-260	4	166-200
5	261-318	5	Over 200

Humidity: relationship of moisture in air to how much moisture the air can hold!

Just because the relative humidity is high doesn't mean that there is a lot of moisture in the air.

Hygrograph - instrument that provides a continuous trace of relative humidity variations.

Why are they important in art museums?

Relative Humidity = Dewpoint temperature / air temperature

(always smaller) / (always larger)

Rainfall: Types of precipitation:

Drizzle.....Trace amounts with sporadic rates of fall and coverage.

Usually associated with very low clouds and fog

Sprinkles....Very small drops of light rain usually from a much higher cloud deck.....Trace amounts and more sporadic coverage.

Showers.....Intermittent fall of rain.....for example...not continuous.

Intensity can vary from light to moderate to heavy.

Light showers for 6 hours can produce 1/10 to 5/10 inch of rain.

Moderate showers 5/10 - 1 1/2 inches of rain.

Heavy showers - can produce 1-2 inches of rain in 1 hour or less and more than 6 inches in 6 hours.....

Light Rain , Moderate Rain , Heavy Rain.....same rainfall rate but note this is a continuous fall of rain .....for example, not stopping and starting.....

Thunderstorms.....widely varying rainfall rates with amounts anywhere from 1/4 inch to 2 inches in a normal t-storm.....Heavy t-storms can produce 2 - 4 inch amounts if they continue to fall over the same area...