

2023 EDITION



ALABAMA WEATHER GUIDE



ARE YOU STORM READY?

Make a safety plan before severe weather strikes.

Alabama can experience severe weather any time of year. That's why Alabama Power is prepared to work quickly and safely to restore service whatever the weather. Meanwhile, there are things you can do to be ready for storms and their aftermath.



BEFORE THE STORM

Charge cellphones and other electronic devices, and make sure to have a battery-operated weather radio to stay informed at all times.

Create a family plan for emergencies and discuss how to stay safe in all weather conditions.



Scan for more storm safety tips,
or visit [AlabamaPower.com/storm](https://alabamapower.com/storm).



AFTER THE STORM

Report an outage or a hazardous situation, such as a downed power line, at [AlabamaPower.com](https://alabamapower.com).

Never drive over or under downed power lines, and keep children and pets away from them. Stay away from fallen trees or debris where downed lines can be hidden.

Never attempt to remove tree limbs caught in downed power lines. Call Alabama Power at 1-800-888-APCO (2726) or local law enforcement.





Now in its sixth year, The Vance Law Firm Storm Track Zone remains one of the most important tools the WSFA First Alert weather team uses to track active weather across Alabama.

The partnership joins Baron, The Vance Law Firm, and WSFA 12 News, three Alabama-based businesses, in an innovative, creative way.

"Once I was introduced to the Baron technology, I knew instantly that I wanted to bring it to the people of the River Region. I quickly understood the precise nature of the data and its ability to pinpoint dangerous storms and allow for early warnings to help keep members of the community safer. I knew I wanted to be a part of it." said Stewart Vance of the Vance Law Firm.



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Stewart E. Vance

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ENTER TO WIN YOUR OWN BE READY BAG

The WSFA 12 News First Alert Weather Team wants to make sure you are always prepared for severe weather. We have created a checklist of items that we feel are necessary to have in your home before severe weather happens.

We are giving away 12 Severe Weather Prep Packs which will include all these necessary items. To register for a chance to win, log on to WSFA.com/ready to enter. We will randomly select 2 winners each month between April 2023 - September 2023.

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- > Community Based Services

BE READY BAG



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A man with short brown hair, smiling, is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is pointing his right index finger towards the word 'WINTER' and his left index finger towards the word 'ALABAMA!'. The background is a vibrant blue with a dense pattern of white snowflakes of various sizes. The text 'WINTER' is in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font, and 'IN ALABAMA!' is in a smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font.

WINTER

**IN
ALABAMA!**

GET TO KNOW JOSH JOHNSON:

1. If a movie was made about your life, who would you want to play you?

Gary Burghoff. I'll save you the Google search - he played a character named "Radar" in MASH; that has to be the guy, right?

2. If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you sing?

Sweet Home Alabama, it's a crowd pleaser and I already know the words. Thunderstruck would also be a solid choice.

3. Are you a morning person, or a night person?

C. All of the above

4. What's your favorite season?

Winter

5. What's the one gadget that you can't live without?

iPhone, although it's also the one I'd most like to throw in a river some days.

6. What's your favorite movie?

Remember the Titans

7. Who has had the biggest influence on your career?

My wife, she is a constant source of encouragement and advice; she's one of the smartest people I know and is always willing to listen and let me talk through any problem.

8. What's your favorite travel destination?

Snow-covered mountains

9. What's your favorite dish?

A perfectly-grilled medium rare ribeye

10. If you were not a meteorologist, what career path would you choose?

Football coach, park ranger or something in finance

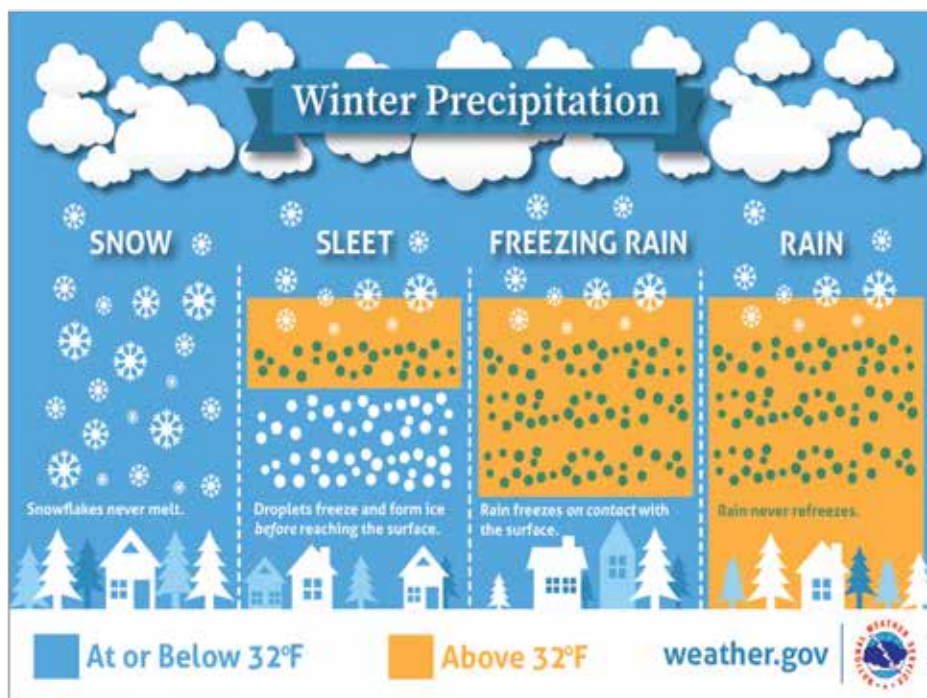
11. What was your first job?

Sweeping floors at a cabinet shop

12. Who is the most famous person you've met?

Bo Jackson





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FIRST ALERT 12
 THE BLIZZARD OF '93

MARCH 12-13,
1993
4
INCHES

The "Blizzard of '93" remains one of the state's highest-impact weather events. The snowstorm struck Alabama thirty years ago, but if you lived here at the time, it was a storm you'll never forget! A massive, intense area of low pressure formed in the Gulf of Mexico, spreading moisture up and over the top of unusually cold air. Snow started to fall on the evening of Friday, March 12, 1993, becoming heavier and louder overnight as thunder and lightning flashed across the sky. This "thundersnow" is rare and occurs only in the most intense snow situations.

By the time the snow ended on Saturday, March 13, over a foot of snow had fallen across northeast Alabama, with widespread six to ten inch snow totals measured across central and even parts of south Alabama. Incredibly, snow fell and accumulated on every square inch of Alabama, from the sandy white beaches to the highest peaks on Mt. Cheaha!



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**WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP,
THINK OF YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS...**

Remember: if it is too cold for you outside, it's probably too cold for most animals!



Keep your pets inside a dry, draft-free enclosure so they are away from the elements!



Know their limits: some breeds handle cold better than others. Consult your vet for advice!

**FROST ADVISORY**

WHEN AIR TEMPERATURES
DROP BETWEEN 33° - 36°

FREEZE WATCH

WIDESPREAD TEMPS BELOW 32°
WITHIN THE NEXT 24 - 36 HOURS

FREEZE WARNING

SIGNIFICANT/WIDESPREAD TEMPS
AT OR BELOW 32° IMMINENTLY

For more weather preparation tips, visit

WSFA.com/ready

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PLACE THE HEATER ON A
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ANYTHING FLAMMABLE
SHOULD STAY 3FT AWAY



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HELLO SPRING!



GET TO KNOW AMANDA CURRAN:

1. If a movie was made about your life, who would you want to play you?

Julia Roberts, Sandra Bullock or Jennifer Garner

2. If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you sing?

Baby Got Back by Sir Mix-a-Lot

3. Are you a morning person, or a night person?

Honestly, both... the nature of this job has kind of made me a chameleon so I switch back and forth a lot!

4. What's your favorite season?

Fall, like real Fall (with Winter being a close runner up!)

5. What's the one gadget that you can't live without?

My smartwatch keeps track of everything so I don't have to have my phone in my hand 24/7.

6. What's your favorite movie?

Pulp Fiction, but Office Space if I need a good laugh.

7. Who has had the biggest influence on your career?

My AP Calculus teacher in high school; she told me I wouldn't ever make it in a science or math related field, and I've been proving her wrong ever since.

8. What's your favorite travel destination?

I love going to Colorado to visit my Mom; there is always something to do outside, no matter the weather.

9. What's your favorite dish?

If it includes bread, it's my favorite!

10. If you were not a meteorologist, what career path would you choose?

I've been told I would make an excellent auctioneer.

11. What was your first job?

Retail folding jeans at Bob's Stores in New Hampshire.

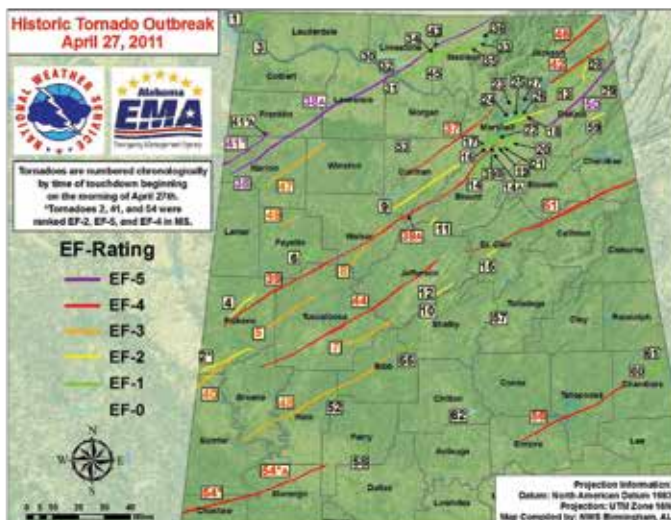
12. Who is the most famous person you've met?

Josh Johnson



Spring is a very active season in Alabama as episodes of thunderstorms and severe weather can occur quite frequently between the start of spring in late March and the middle of May. These severe weather events, of course, do include tornadoes. Arguably the worst day in Alabama history when it comes to tornadoes happened on April 27, 2011.

A total of 62 tornadoes touched down as three different rounds of severe weather impacted the state. Many counties were actually hit by more than one tornado over the course of 18 hours. Of the 62 tornadoes to hit the state, a staggering 18 were rated EF3 or higher, including three rated EF5. When added together the total path of the 62 Alabama tornadoes stretches more than 1,200 miles. That is simply unprecedented.



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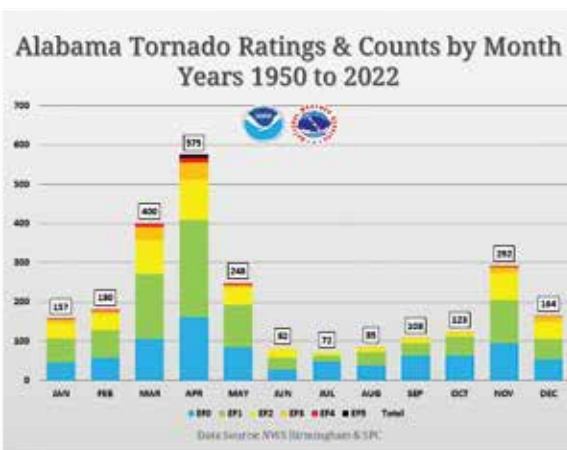
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When you think of spring in Alabama, one of the first things you probably think of is tornadoes. Spring is the most active season for severe weather and tornadoes across the Deep South. The other seasons can certainly bring dangerous weather, but March, April and May are, on average, the most active months for tornadoes. This is due to warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico pushing northward and colliding with colder, drier air from the northern U.S. These collisions happen most often during the transition seasons of spring and fall. In Alabama, the ingredients for tornadoes are most prevalent during late March, April and the first half of May. Dating back to 1950 there have been 575 tornadoes in Alabama during the month of April. March sits at 400 and May is at 248. Strong and violent tornadoes -- rated EF2 or greater -- happen most often during these months.

If you do the math, the 575 April tornadoes since 1950 comes out to about 8 per year in Alabama during the month of April. There is a significant drop-off in severe weather and tornadoes once late spring arrives. The latter half of May and June typically don't have the right ingredients in place to support big-time tornado events in our state.



Cold, ice and snow can be a part of our Spring in Alabama. This is especially true very early on during spring. The average last freeze in Montgomery occurs on March 8th, which is still winter. But there has been a freeze as late as April 13th. Cities like Birmingham, Gadsden and Huntsville have recorded freezes even later than that.

The average last frost in Montgomery occurs by March 24th, which is technically just after the beginning of spring. Believe it or not there has been a frost as late as April 29th! This is why we tell you to avoid planting sensitive plants and vegetation until early April, give or take.

Spring snow is very rare and highly unusual in Central and South Alabama. Only a few instances in recorded history -- since the late 1800s -- have brought snowflakes to Montgomery and surrounding areas during the spring. The latest measurable Spring snow event in Montgomery happened on April 3rd in 1987. That is an extreme outlier, though, as most March and April snow events brought nothing more than a few flakes. Although it technically occurred in Winter, the March 13, 1993 snowstorm was a notable exception, bringing over six inches of snow to most of Alabama.

FIRST ALERT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA	
AVERAGE LAST FROST	March 24th
EARLIEST LAST FROST	February 9th
LATEST LAST FROST	April 29th



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FIRST ALERT 12
POLLEN TYPES BY SEASON

Trees



Mainly late February
through mid-May

Grasses



Mainly late April
through Labor Day

Weeds



Mainly late May
through October



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YOUR LIFE
YOUR GOALS
YOUR ASE



SUMMERTIME!



GET TO KNOW NICK GUNTER:

1. If a movie was made about your life, who would you want to play you?

Ryan Reynolds

2. If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you sing?

Thunder by Imagine Dragons

3. Are you a morning person, or a night person?

Depends on the day

4. What's your favorite season?

Fall

5. What's the one gadget that you can't live without?

iPhone

6. What's your favorite movie?

Back to the Future Trilogy

7. Who has had the biggest influence on your career?

Meteorologist Ron Childers, my former boss and colleague at our sister station WMC Action News 5 in Memphis.

8. What's your favorite travel destination?

Walt Disney World

9. What's your favorite dish?

Chicken Fingers with French Fries

10. If you were not a meteorologist, what career path would you choose?

City Planner or Highway Engineer

11. What was your first job?

Part-Time Meteorologist at WTVA in Tupelo, Mississippi

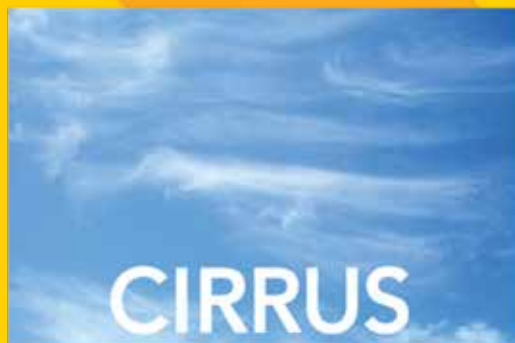
12. Who is the most famous person you've met?

Actress Jayne Atkinson



Cloud Identification Chart

Calling all Kids!



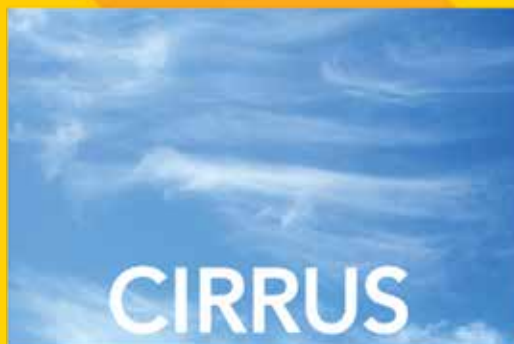
Ever look up and wonder what kind of cloud you're seeing? Cut out the area inside this box, then hold up to the sky! This handy guide will help you ID clouds!



Test your cloud spotting skills!

Cloud Identification Chart

Calling all Kids!



Ever look up and wonder what kind of cloud you're seeing? Cut out the area inside this box, then hold up to the sky! This handy guide will help you ID clouds!



Test your cloud spotting skills!

5 TIPS FOR SUN SAFETY



Welcome to Summer!

From backyard BBQs to lazy days at the lake, front porch sitting to waves crashing at the beach, Summer brings many Alabamians outside. Summertime rolls around year after year and many people hit the highways, lakes, beaches and mountains to bask in the summer sun.

Like every season, weather can affect your summer plans, from the heat, to summer storms, hurricanes and more. In this section of the First Alert Weather guide let's discuss some of the most impactful ways weather can upend your summer plans.

While Meteorological summer months are June, July and August, the official start date of Summer in Alabama is Wednesday, June 21st, 2023, at 9:57 AM. That date and exact time is when the summer solstice occurs.

The summer solstice is the moment during the year that the sun in the sky is farthest from the north in the Northern Hemisphere. During the summer solstice, the sun travels its longest path through the sky that day, meaning it is the day with the most daylight.

The Solstice occurs when the North Pole is tilted at 23.5° towards the sun.

This tilt means that at noon on the Solstice, the sun shines down directly onto the Tropic of Cancer, a circle that goes around the Earth south of the United States. The added energy from this more direct sunlight warms the Northern Hemisphere and allows our Summer to begin.

We all know the summer fun starts well before June 21st. Let's dive into important tips to keep you and your family safe during the summer months!

GET FIRST ALERT READY FOR BOATING!

STRONG WIND

Dangerous wind can arrive before the rain. Reduce speed and head to shore if alerted to high wind. Always wear a life jacket.

FOG

If fog forms, slow down and turn on your lights. Listen for other boats around you or check radar.

LIGHTNING

If you hear thunder or see lightning, go immediately to an enclosed building or hard-topped vehicle.



UV INDEX AND YOU

1-2	LOW	- RARELY REQUIRES PROTECTION - WINTER AND CLOUDY/RAINY DAYS - BURN TIME: WELL OVER 1 HOUR
3-5	MEDIUM	- PROTECTION IS A GOOD IDEA - MOST OF WINTER IN CENTRAL AL. - BURN TIME: 45 MINUTES
6-7	HIGH	- PROTECTION NEEDED - SPF 30+, SUNGLASSES, HAT, SHADE - BURN TIME: 30 MINUTES
8-10	VERY HIGH	- PROTECTION REQUIRED - SPF 30+, SUNGLASSES, HAT, SHADE - BURN TIME: 20 MINUTES
11+	EXTREME	- PROTECTION REQUIRED - SPF 30+, SUNGLASSES, HAT, SHADE - BURN TIME: 10-15 MINUTES



For more weather preparation tips, visit
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All About Rip Currents

According to the National Weather Service out of Tallahassee, Florida, rip currents are the #1 weather-related killer at the beaches along the northern Gulf Coast.

Since 2002, rip currents have killed 191 people along the Alabama and Florida Panhandle beaches. That's more deaths than caused by flooding, tornadoes, lightning and tropical systems combined!

A rip current is a powerful, narrow channel of water flowing away from the beach. The current typically extends from near the shoreline out through the breaker zone where breaking waves form. Rip currents can and do occur on clear, sunny days.



Usually occurring around breaks in sandbars and near inlets, jetties and piers, the flowing water is like a natural treadmill travelling away from the beach. The currents can travel as fast as 8 feet per second, sweeping even the strongest swimmer out to sea. For that reason, they are life-threatening to anyone entering the surf.

There are several clues to identify a rip current, such as water texture, color of the water and the movement.

To survive a rip current, one must not panic, as the currents will not pull you under the water. Do not swim towards the beach, against the current. Instead, swim out of the current, or parallel to the beach. If you cannot escape the current, then float in it, yell and wave for help.

It is also advised to keep in check with the area beach forecast and know if high rip currents are in the forecast.

Be sure to keep an eye on posted beach flags that indicate the type of surf that is expected that day at that particular beach!



Rip Currents: Forecasting

What Do Forecasters Look at to Predict the Rip Current Risk?

Wind Direction, Speed, and Persistence



Strong onshore wind favors the generation of wave sets that move toward the beach, which results in strong and numerous rip currents

Swell Height, Period, and Direction of Propagation



Swell sets with higher wave heights and a longer period result in a greater potential for strong rip currents

Tide Cycle



A large range between high tide and low tide favors a greater potential for rip current development (especially during outgoing tide)



Risk Level

Low

Moderate

High

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RIP CURRENTS: SAFETY TIPS

Stay Safe. Know the Flags.

- Swim near lifeguards if at all possible.
- Can't swim? Stay away from the surf!

Double Red Flag:

- The water is **CLOSED!**

(you could be arrested or fined for entering the water in these conditions)

BEACH WARNING FLAGS



WATER CLOSED TO PUBLIC



HIGH HAZARD

HIGH SURF &/ OR STRONG CURRENTS



MEDIUM HAZARD

MODERATE SURF &/ OR CURRENTS



LOW HAZARD

CALM CONDITIONS, EXERCISE CAUTION



DANGEROUS MARINE LIFE

* Absence of flags does NOT assure safe waters



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**FALL
OR
AUTUMN?**

GET TO KNOW TYLER SEBREE:

1. If a movie was made about your life, who would you want to play you?

Joe Gatto from Impractical Jokers

2. If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you sing?

I Want It That Way by Backstreet Boys

3. Are you a morning person, or a night person?

Morning person thanks to working the shift I do

4. What's your favorite season?

Fall and it isn't even close

5. What's the one gadget that you can't live without?

Not gonna lie...my phone

6. What's your favorite movie?

Any of the Madea movies by Tyler Perry

7. Who has had the biggest influence on your career?

So many people did, but I'd say Jim Cantore

8. What's your favorite travel destination?

I have 5 top travel destinations, but let's go with Destin, FL.

9. What's your favorite dish?

Definitely bacon wrapped scallops

10. If you were not a meteorologist, what career path would you choose?

A roller coaster designer

11. What was your first job?

First job was McDonald's

12. Who is the most famous person you've met?

Has to be Josh Johnson



FIRST ALERT 12
BEST FALL FOLIAGE SPOTS

"THE BEST 10 DAYS OF FALL"



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Welcome to Fall - Alabama's underrated severe weather season. While most of us associate Fall weather with cool, crisp conditions, that's not always the case.

In fact, in the past five years we've had some pretty intense weather occur in the Fall season. Hurricanes Michael and Zeta both technically occurred after the end of Summer. And, Alabama is no stranger to November tornadoes, as we were tragically reminded on November 29, 2022 with the deadly Flatwood tornado in northern Montgomery County.

The other thing Alabama Falls are famous for - football season! And there's a certain game played towards the end of November that tends to garner quite a bit of attention. Most years the Iron Bowl is pretty tame weather-wise, but that's not always the case. Occasionally you'll get an Iron Bowl that features big-time cold, unusual warmth, rain, thunderstorms, and/or wind. We've even had some sleet and freezing rain in an Iron Bowl (2000, Tuscaloosa).

Of the 86 games played, 17 of them featured rain. One of those featured a lot of rain with more than four inches falling over the course of the day. That Iron Bowl is arguably one of the wildest in terms of weather - a funnel cloud passed right over Legion Field during the 1983 Iron Bowl! A Tornado Warning was issued as torrents of rain fell and lightning flashed across the sky. As inconceivable as it sounds today, the game wasn't stopped or delayed. Play went on; thankfully, there was no tornado at the stadium, but the same storm produced a tornado that killed two people in east Alabama later that evening.

Most of the time the Iron Bowl is played on a day with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. That isn't always the case. Temperatures have been in the 70s multiple times during the game, but temps have also been on the other side of the spectrum a handful of times.

The warmest average daily temperature measured on Iron Bowl Saturday was 69.5°. That's the average temperature of the whole day, and is determined by factoring in the day's high and low temperature. The coldest average daily temperature measured on an Iron Bowl Saturday is 32.5°. That means the average temperature over the course of the day was barely above freezing! As you can imagine that probably had an impact on the game and players.

WARMEST AVERAGE
TEMP

69.5°



FIRST ALERT 12
IRON BOWL WEATHER EXTREMES

COLDEST AVERAGE
TEMP

32.5°

WETTEST DAY

4.03"

5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE RESILIENT**1**

Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.

2

Mobile home owners, check your tie-downs, straps and/or plates for corrosion or weakness.

3

Bring loose indoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.

4

Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually most vulnerable.

5

Move your cars away from trees. The ideal location is in a garage, under a carport or in another secure location.



For more weather preparation tips, visit

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING WEATHER INFO**1**

Television - WSFA 12 News provides coverage of any life-threatening weather that significantly affects Alabama.

2

Phone - The WSFA 12 First Alert Weather App and Wireless Emergency Alerts both send alerts to your phone.

3

Radio - NOAA Weather Radio, plus WSFA partners with many local AM/FM stations to provide storm coverage.

4

Social Media - Follow the WSFA First Alert Weather Team, plus you can share our updates with family and friends.

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