

Flash Flood and Isolated Severe Storm Risk

September 18, 2026
4:36 AM

Multiple Rounds of Showers and Storms Expected Through the Weekend

Key Messages

- Active weather pattern will continue through the weekend with rounds of showers and storms. Heavy rain and a few strong storms are possible.
- A **Flood Watch** has been issued for a small portion of eastern Iowa and northwest Illinois for late tonight and Saturday. Rainfall of 1-3" are likely with locally higher amounts possible.

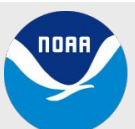
NEW

What Has Changed

- First Issuance

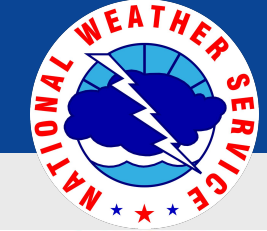
Next Scheduled Update

- If needed, by 4 PM Friday



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Quad Cities, IA/IL



Heavy Rain and Severe Storm Confidence

September 18, 2026
4:36 AM CDT

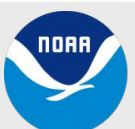
Forecaster Insight

What We Know

- Rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected through the weekend. Rain may be heavy at times. Isolated strong storms are possible today and Saturday with gusty winds the primary threat.
- **Elevated Flash Flood Threat.** Heavy rain in urban areas, poor drainage areas, and any areas that have received heavy rain over the past couple of days will be at risk for flash flooding.
- Drier and cooler conditions are expected to settle in by Tuesday of next week.

What Is More Uncertain

- Coverage of storms, and the potential for severe weather (low).
- **Where the axis of heaviest rains will fall through Sunday.** Each round of precipitation will have an impact on where the subsequent rounds will occur.
- Tributary river flooding. It is possible where the heavy rains occur late in the weekend and early next week as runoff enters into the rivers and streams.



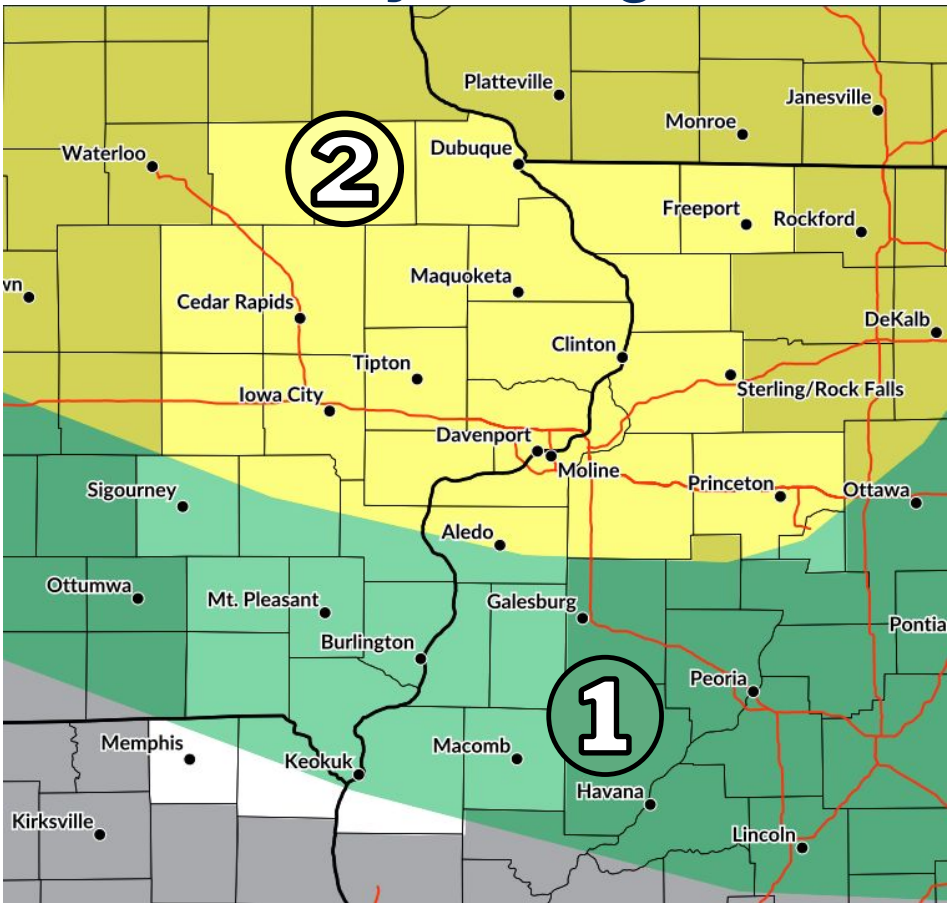


Multi-Day Heavy Rain Threat This Weekend

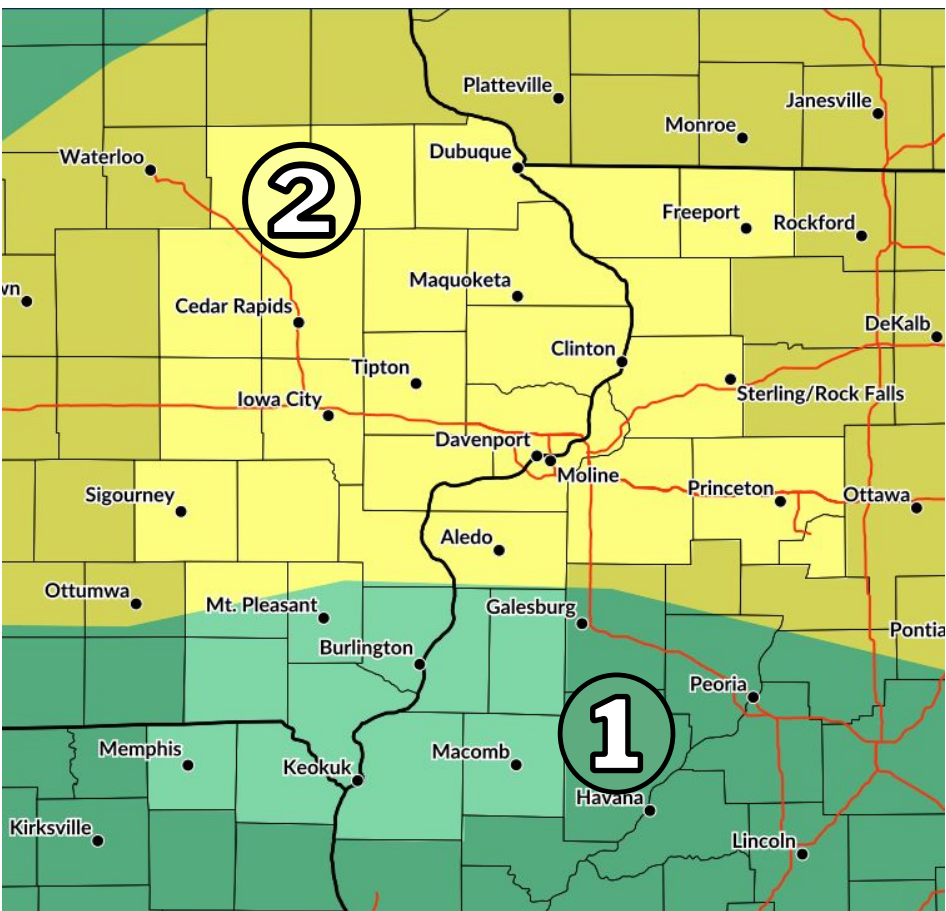
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Multiple Rounds of Heavy Rain Will Bring a Flood Threat

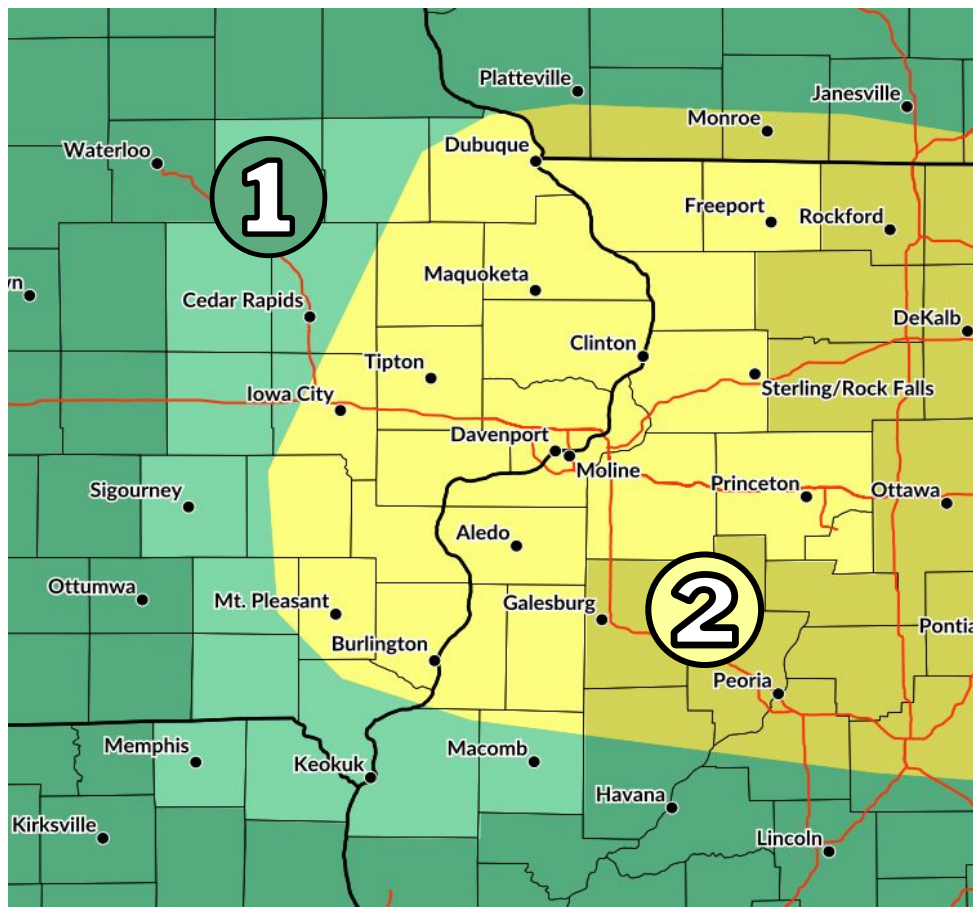
Today - Tonight



Saturday - Saturday Night



Sunday - Sunday Night



Key Messages:

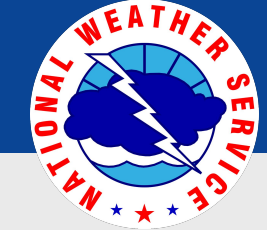
- Multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected through the weekend. Rain may be heavy at times with widespread 1-3" rainfall totals Friday through Sunday. Locally higher amounts of 3-5+" is possible.
- Flash flooding threat will exist with repeated heavy rain producing storms and high rainfall rates, while flooding of low lying areas, cropland and ditches is possible. Rises on rivers, streams and creeks is also possible.

Excessive
Rain Risk



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Des Moines, Iowa



Flash Flooding Possible Late Tonight and Saturday

September 18, 2026

4:36 AM CDT

Threat is Greatest for Portions of E Iowa and NW Illinois North of U.S. Highway 30

Key Messages

- Heavy rainfall with repeating rounds of thunderstorms will result in 1-3" of rainfall with localized higher amounts near 3-5" possible (10-20%).
- Any urban areas, locations with poor drainage, or areas that recently had heavy rain are at increased risk for flash flooding.
- A **Flood Watch** is in effect for a small portion of eastern Iowa and northwest Illinois. This Watch could be expanded!



1 AM to 7 PM Saturday

Threats

Flash Flooding

May flood roads, low-lying areas, fields, and basements, and cause rapid stream/creek rises

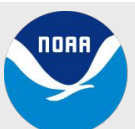
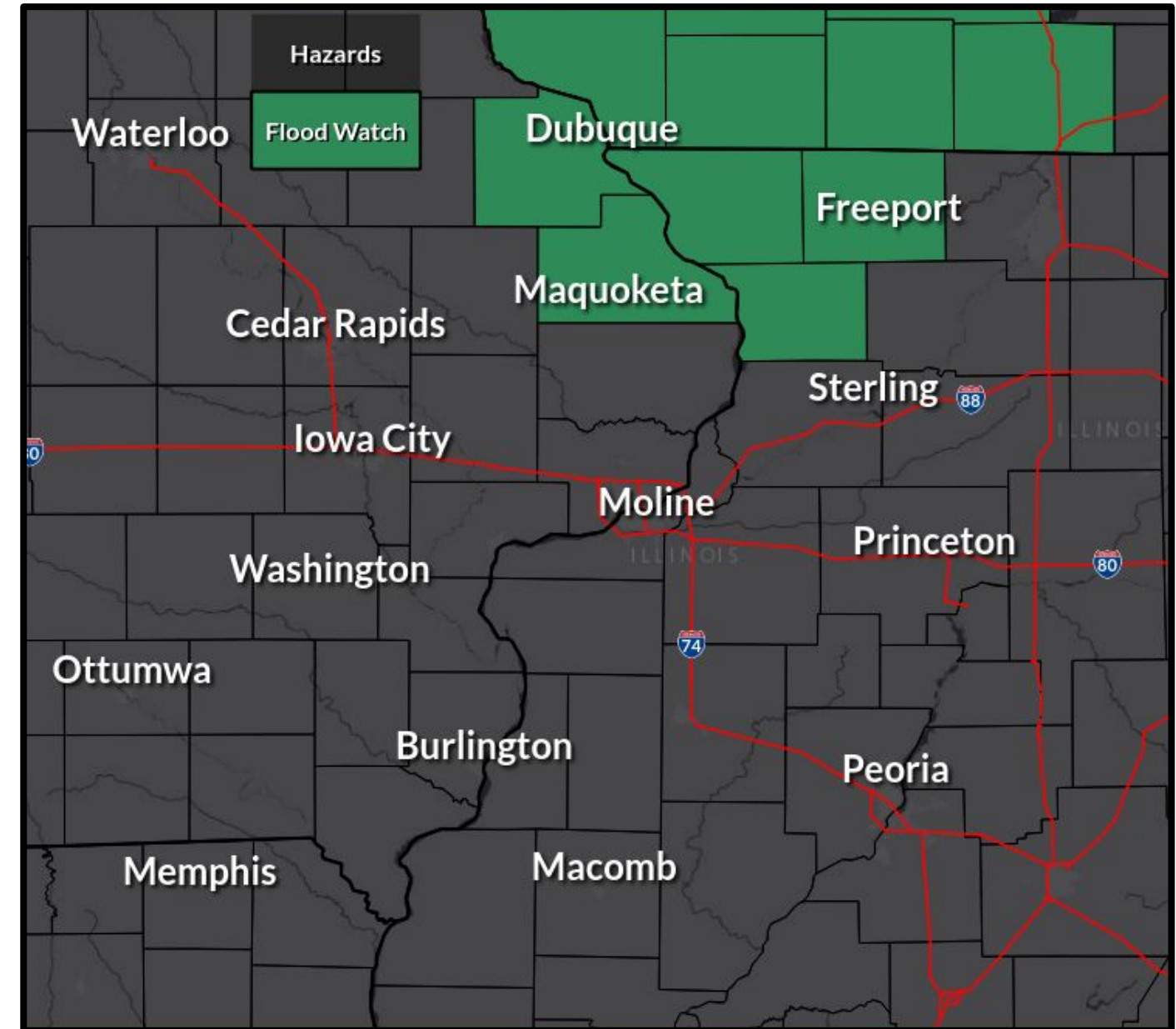


Rising
Stream and
Creek levels

Actions

- ✓ NEVER drive or walk across flooded roads.

Primary Flash Flood Risk Area



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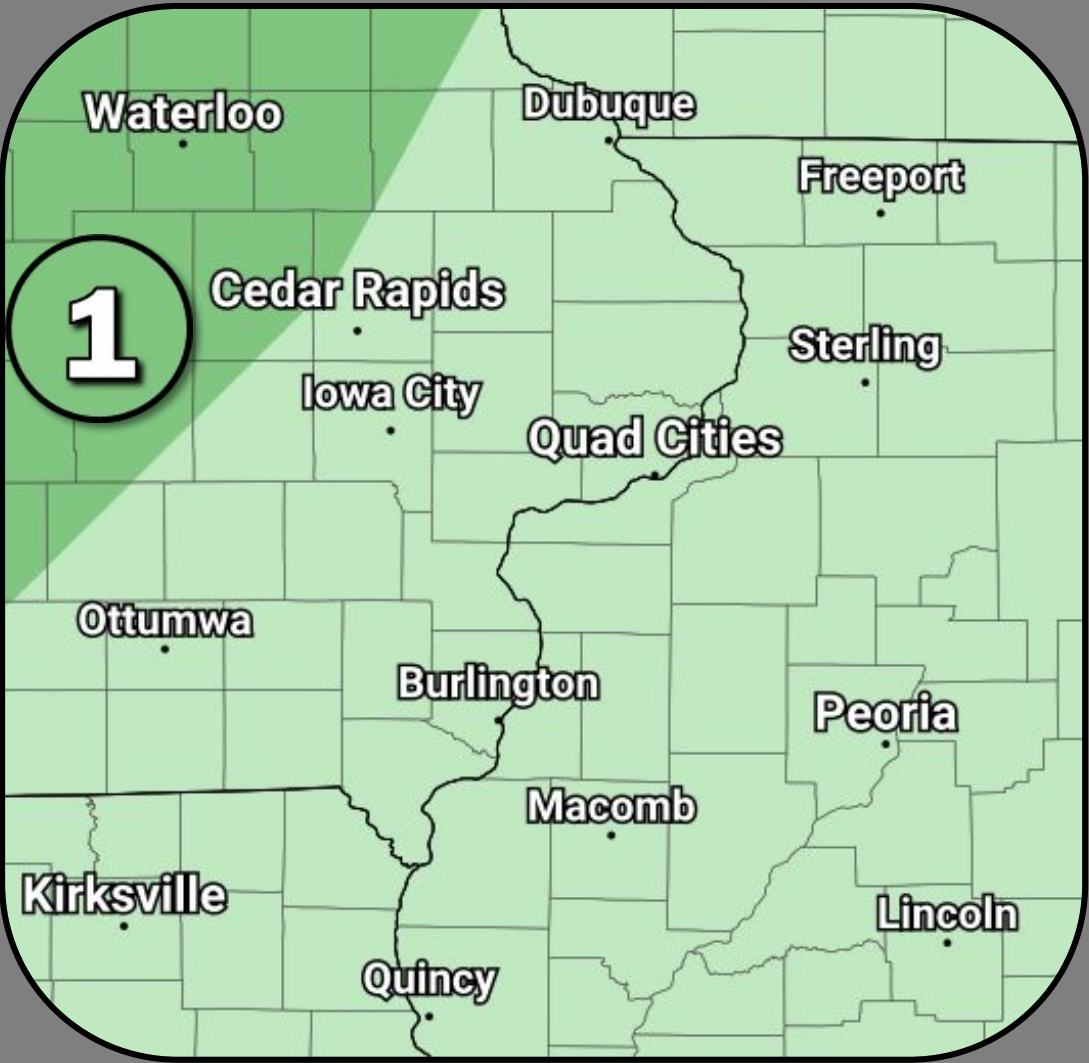
National Weather Service
Quad Cities, IA/IL



Severe Potential Today and Saturday

Risk Level: Marginal (Level 1 out of 5)

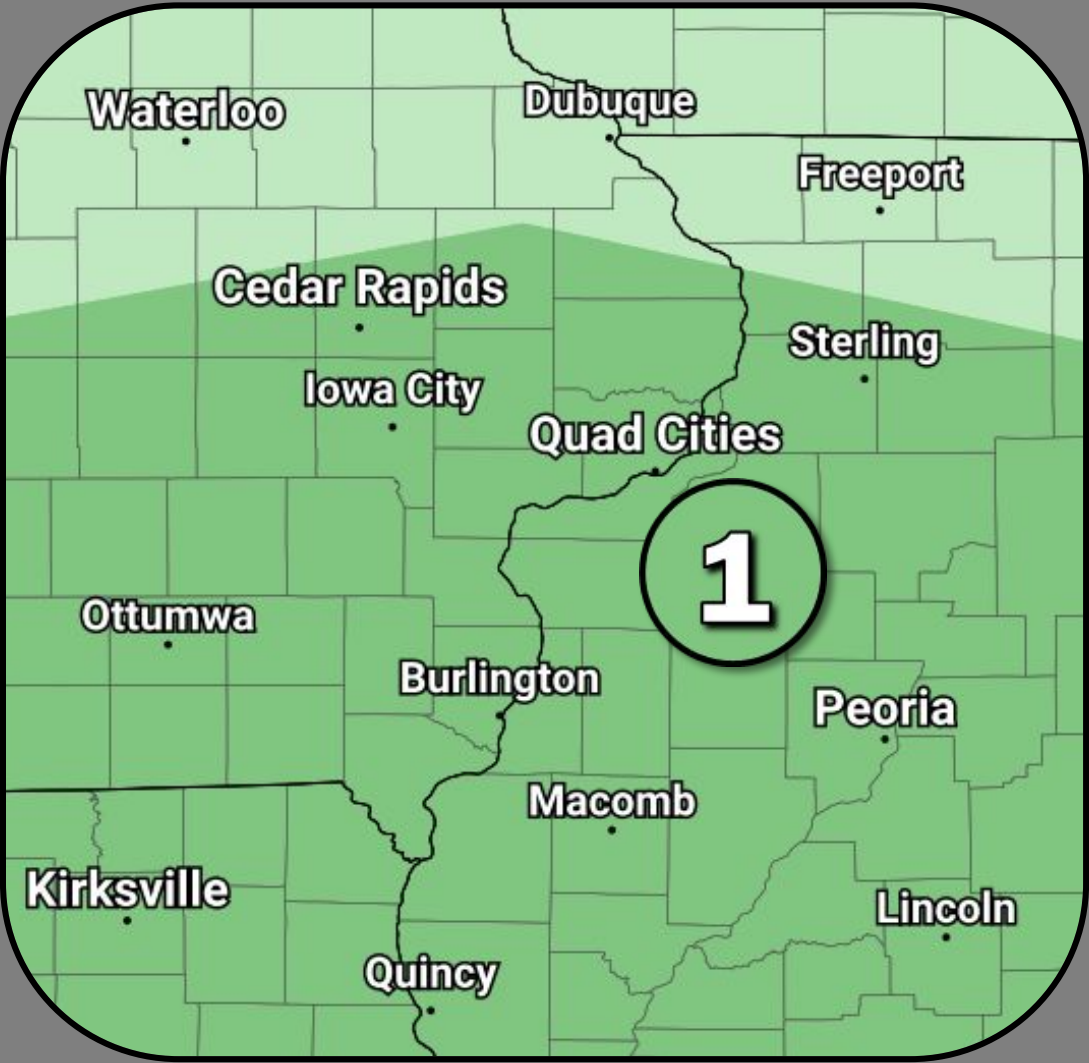
Severe Weather Outlook for Today (9/18)

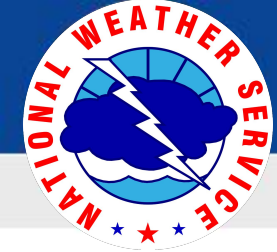


Highlights

- There is a chance (30-60%) for storms late this morning and afternoon, especially north of I-80.
- Scattered to numerous showers and storms (40-80%) are expected overnight and Saturday.
- Primary hazards with any severe storms would be damaging winds and lightning.
- Confidence is low on severe storms, as clouds and A.M. precipitation could limit instability.

Severe Weather Outlook for Saturday (9/19)



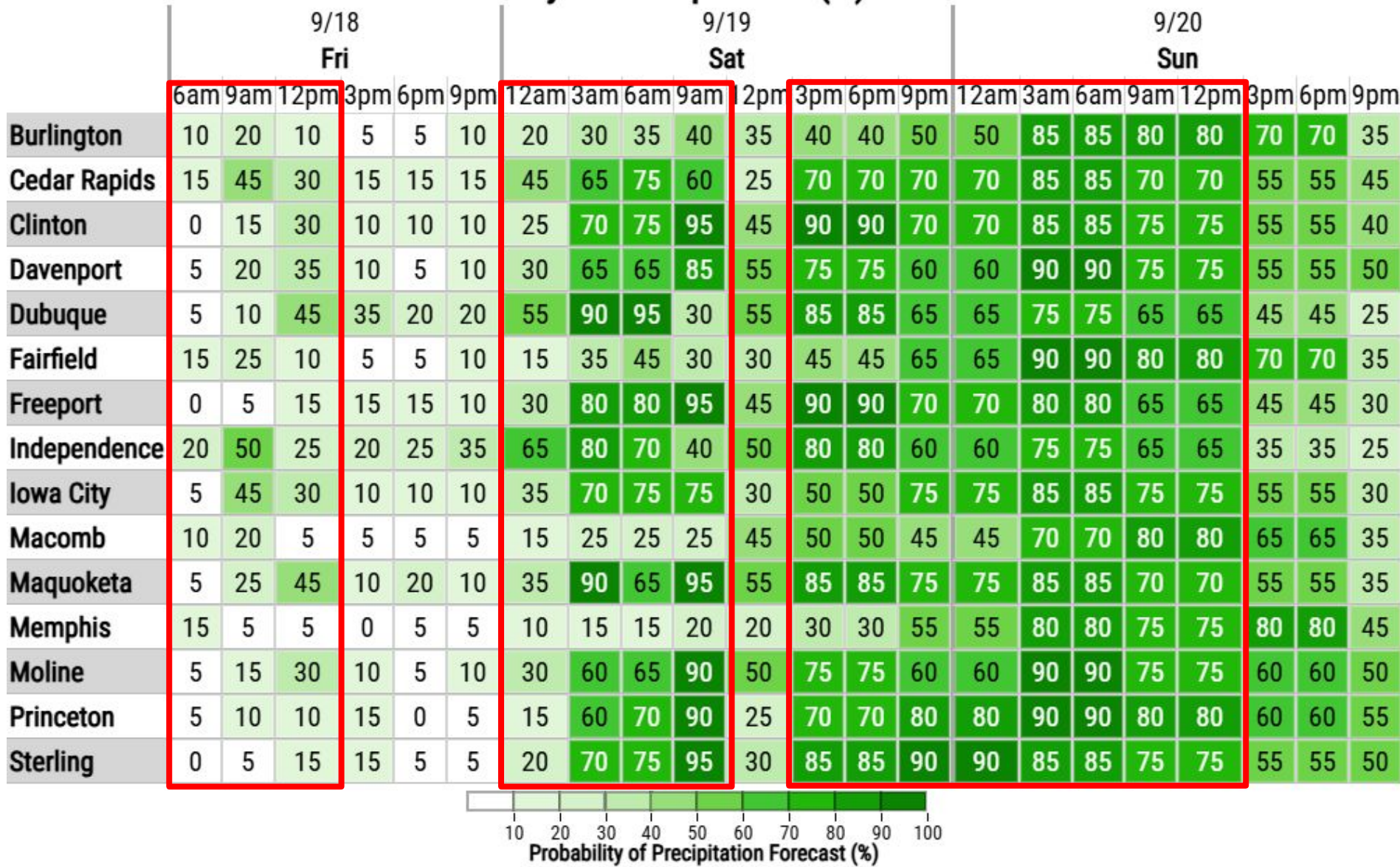


Forecast Precipitation Timing Through Sunday

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When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Probability of Precipitation (%) Forecast



Key Messages

- Several rounds of showers and storms expected through Sunday.
- First round (scattered with 30-60% coverage) will be this morning into early afternoon. Mainly showers with isolated storms
- Second round (scattered to widespread) 40-80% develops late this evening/overnight and continues through Saturday AM.
- Additional round of widespread activity (50-90%) is expected by Saturday evening through Sunday AM.





Preparedness Reminders

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Stay Weather Aware!

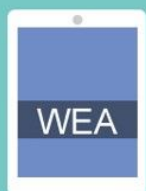
6 WAYS to receive a warning



NOAA Weather Radio



Local TV and Radio



Wireless Emergency Alerts
& Weather Apps



Outdoor Sirens



Internet Sites



weather.gov



From Your Friends,
Family and Coworkers



weather.gov

Flash flooding can escalate quickly.

Heavy rain can lead to sudden flash floods, whether you're on the road or at a campground. Will you be ready?



Set up a way to get weather warnings on your phone



When alerted to a flash flood, get to higher ground immediately



Never enter floodwaters in a vehicle or on foot



weather.gov



[Lightning Safety](#) | [Severe Weather Safety](#) | [Flooding Safety](#)



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