



Strong rising currents of air called updrafts carry water droplets into thunderstorms where they freeze. Sometimes these frozen water droplets bump into unfrozen water droplets. Trapped within turbulent updraft/downdraft airflow, these frozen droplets are carried back up within the storm to refreeze and become larger and larger ultimately until hailstones are formed and become too heavy for the updraft to support their weight. These hailstones take their plunge to the earth's surface. Some large hailstones can fall at speeds faster than 100mph.

Hail facts:

- Illinois averages 860 reports of wind damage and large hail, annually
- Most property damages and injuries are from high winds and large hail
- One of the largest hailstones ever reported in Illinois fell in Kendall County (June 10, 2015). The hailstone was 4.75 inches in diameter (bigger than a grapefruit!)
- Hail can damage aircraft, homes and cars, and could be deadly to livestock and people.
- A tornado or severe thunderstorm warning could bring hail of 1" or larger
- Hail is a strong indicator of severe thunderstorms
- Move vehicles under cover
- Bring household pets inside
- Hail size is dependent on the strength of the updraft
- If driving, pull over or consider delaying your travel
- Stay away from car windows
- Cover your eyes with a piece of clothing
- If possible, get on the floor face down, or lay down on the seat with your back to the windows
- Cover small children under you and help cover their eyes

Ready.Illinois.gov



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency and
Office of Homeland Security



@ReadyIllinois



ReadyIllinois



@ReadyIllinois



@ReadyIllinois

2200 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62703
IEMA Main Office (217) 782-2700
24-hour Response (217) 782-7860