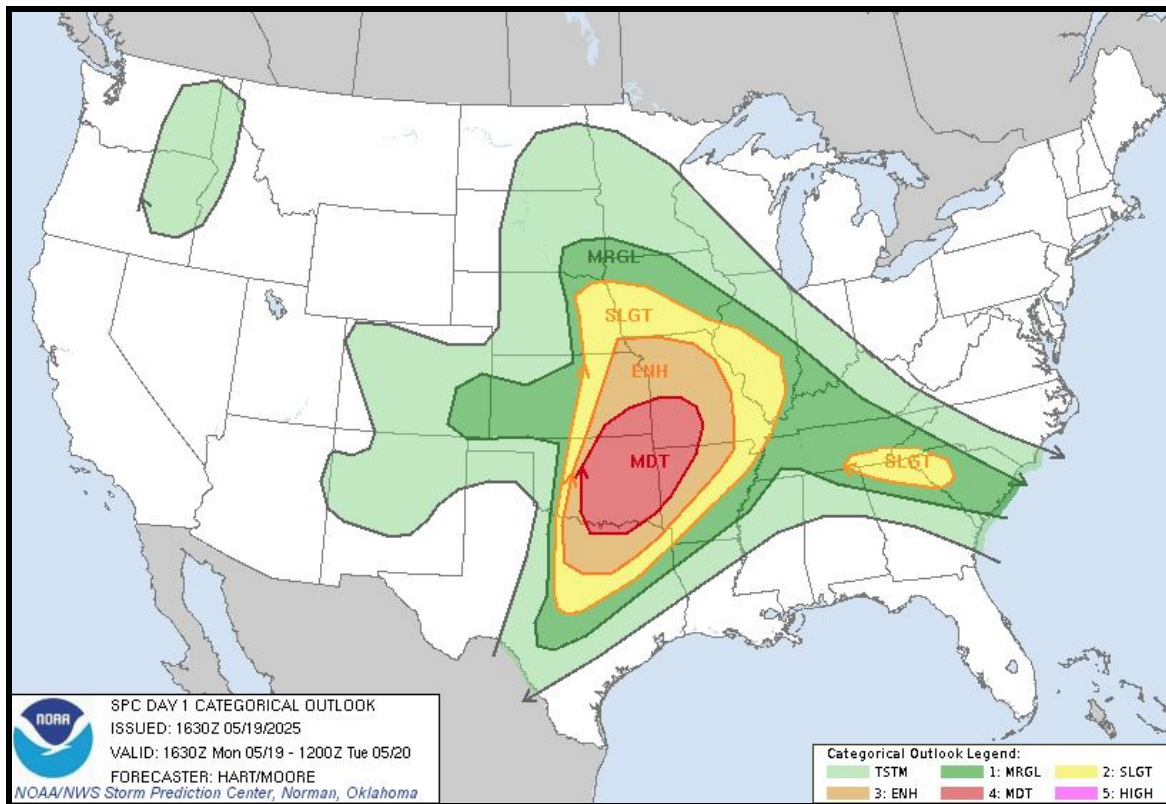


Severe Weather from Southern Plains to Tennessee River Basin

By Scarlett Waters

Kansas City, May 19 (World Weather Inc.) – Satellite imagery and radar are beginning to show the initial signs of a notable convective outbreak this afternoon and evening. The thunderstorm clusters will be disorganized for a while this afternoon before a more solid line of storms evolves this evening. Strong to severe thunderstorms are quite likely producing hail, damaging wind and tornadoes from the eastern Great Plains into the central Midwest. The storms will shift farther to the east Tuesday. A similar situation occurred during the weekend producing serious damage to property in the lower Midwest Friday and in the central Plains Sunday.

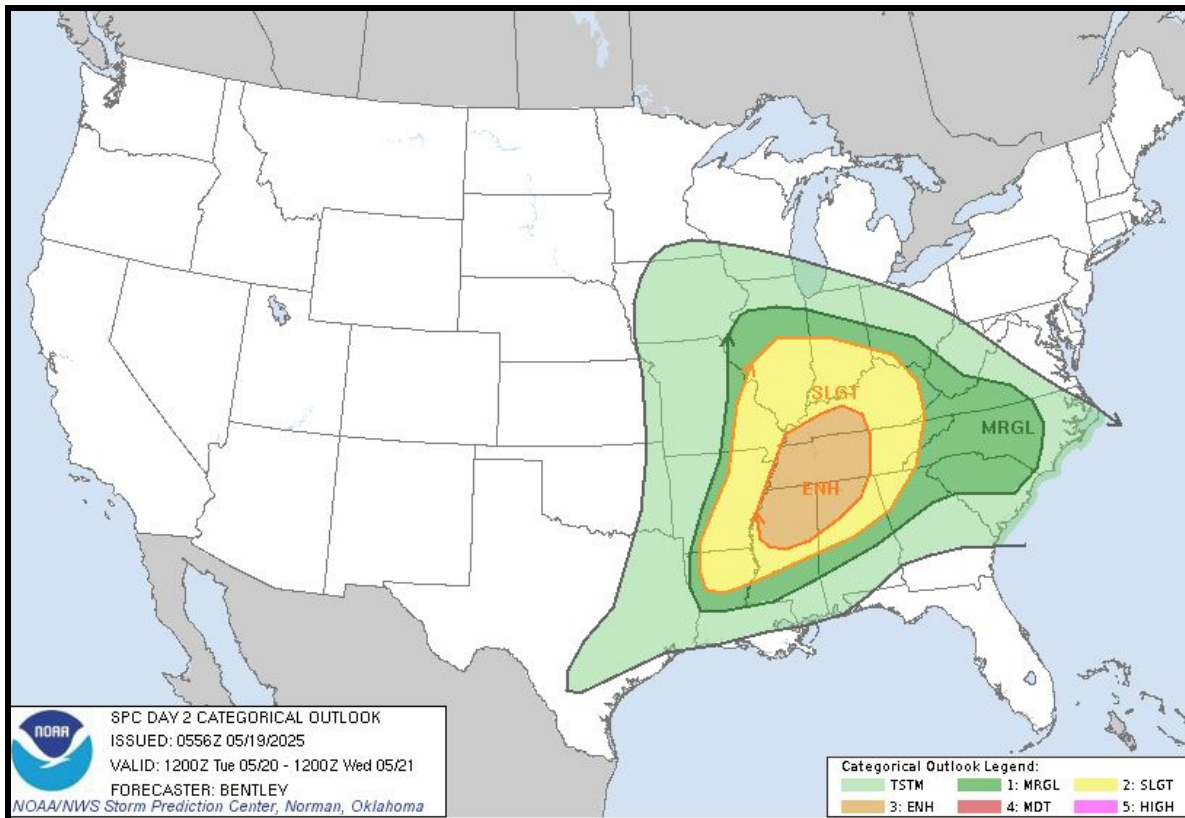


Severe weather is expected to occur in the eastern Great Plains into Missouri and Arkansas today. The highest risk of severe weather is currently expected throughout eastern Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, northeastern Arkansas, and southwestern Missouri. Primary risks are going to be strong winds, hail, and potentially tornadoes. As of 1130 AM CDT, there was a 30% chance of wind speeds greater than 58 mph from northern Kansas and Missouri southward to northwestern Arkansas into portions of northeastern Texas, with a 10% chance of 75mph wind gusts possible around the common state borders of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. A 15-45% chance of one-inch diameter hail or greater is also expected along with a 10% chance of two-inch diameter hail or greater is possible from eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa southward into northeastern Texas. The U.S. Storm Prediction Center also suggested a 10-15% chance of tornadoes exists from northern Kansas and Missouri southward into Oklahoma and northeastern Texas. The forecast group

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also suggested a 10% chance that some of the tornadoes could reach EF2 intensity or greater.

The storms are expected to develop around 3:00 PM CDT today from northeastern Texas through eastern Kansas to southwestern Iowa. Initially the storms are expected to be isolated, though by 5:00 PM CDT they will be occurring mostly in a line and their intensity will be great enough to spawn the hail, damaging wind and tornadoes noted above. By 11:00 PM CDT the initial line of storms will have moved to southeastern Iowa and eastern Missouri and beginning to push into western Illinois. Behind the initial line of strong to severe thunderstorms will be other clusters of strong thunderstorms that will redevelop along the Kansas/Missouri border and extend south into western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma.

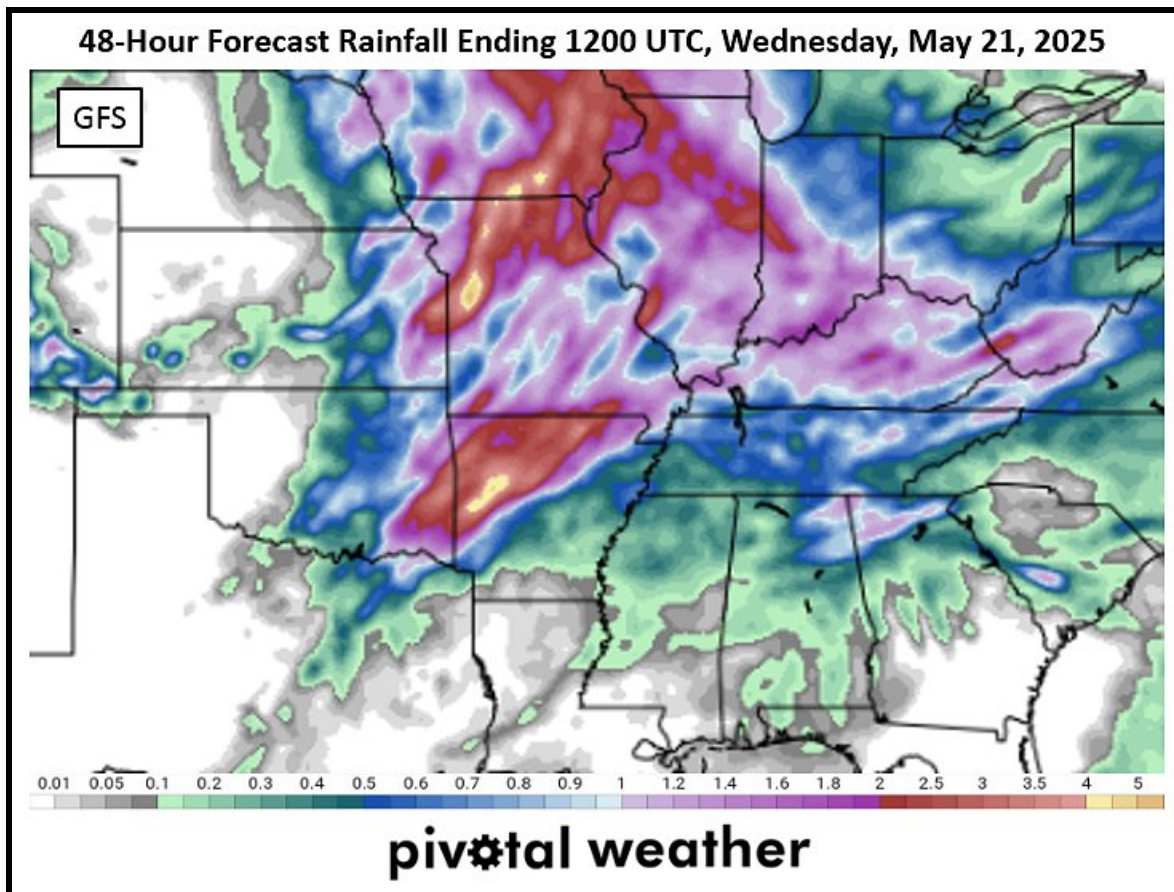


By dawn Tuesday a consolidated area of heavy rain and thunderstorms will be centered over Iowa with thunderstorms trying to develop a new line arcing from southeastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois through southern Illinois to western Tennessee. Most of the stronger storms will be diminishing late morning Tuesday and on into the early afternoon. Additional scattered thunderstorms of strong to severe intensity will develop in other Midwestern locations Tuesday with some storms also developing in the lower Mississippi and Tennessee River Basins before reaching the southeastern states Wednesday.

Tuesday's severe weather hazards will be similar hazards to those of today; though, the primary risk will be a 15-30% chance of wind speeds in excess of 50mph. A 10% chance of tornadoes is possible from western Kentucky southward into northern Mississippi and Alabama. A 15% chance of hail greater than 1 inch in diameter is also a risk that extends across the eastern Midwest and Tennessee River Basin.

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Over the next 48-hours, rainfall is forecast to be anywhere between 0.75 to 3.20 inches from eastern Kansas and Oklahoma eastward into Missouri, Iowa, and northwestern Arkansas with locally heavier totals likely. Slightly lighter amounts between 0.50 and 2.00 inches are expected in the eastern Midwest southward into northern Alabama and Georgia. If these amounts verify, it could present a risk of flooding in some locations that are impacted by the heavier storm cells. A Flood Watch remains in effect until Tuesday morning for much of southwestern Missouri, northwestern Arkansas, and portions of southeast Kansas and eastern Oklahoma. Flooding may also be a risk for the Tennessee River Valley on Tuesday as topsoil moisture remains saturated from recent rounds of showers and thunderstorms. Flash flood risks will likely accompany the storm cells that produce the heavier amounts.



The severe storms predicted for today and Tuesday follow previous severe weather events that have impacted the lower Midwest Friday, May 16., the southern Plains Saturday and the west-central Great Plains Sunday. Tornadoes that occurred in Missouri on Friday included an EF3 tornado in southern St. Louis, MO where there were 5 fatalities, 38 injured, and roughly 5,000 damaged homes. An additional 2 fatalities came from an EF2 tornado in Stoddard, MO on the same evening.

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