



# Weather Alerts

## Computer Widgets, Websites and Smartphone Apps

New technologies are providing ways for business owners to stay alert to changing weather conditions. We encourage companies to research and take advantage of these evolving technologies as an additional way to keep employees informed and reduce slip and fall injuries related to adverse winter weather in your area.

A variety of software applications are now available that can be downloaded and placed onto personal computers, company websites and smart phones. Some applications provide automatic text messages and emails to users, which can be particularly useful ways to receive timely severe weather alerts and forecasts.

These applications provide useful information to employees within a facility or those traveling offsite. The software may provide information including live radar images, local weather conditions, forecasts, severe weather alerts and more.

Management should work together with their Information Technology (IT) department to review available options and how they could be safely integrated into your company's technology systems.

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## Weather advisory websites, desktop widgets and screen savers

There are a variety of company and governmental agencies which offer weather-related websites, desktop widgets and screen savers. Many are free to users or can be purchased from vendors.

Local television and radio stations frequently have their own websites and are a good place to look for website information and computer desktop applications. A quick Internet search will yield a significant number of companies providing software applications or links to their websites, which host weather data. Some of the commonly found websites include The Weather Channel, Weather Bug and AccuWeather.

Many websites provide a variety of weather-related information, including live streaming radar images, current weather conditions, multi-day weather forecasts and storm advisories or warnings. These sites can be quickly added as favorites within any web browser so they can be easily accessed.

Appropriate personnel can also perform research on these applications to determine if it would be appropriate for use on your company's Intranet.

## Smartphone apps and alerts

Applications for smartphones are readily available from vendors on the web. Customer service representatives for service providers in retail stores can also assist customers in downloading weather apps onto their phone. These applications contain many of the same features offered for desktop computers, including live radar images, current weather conditions, multi-day forecasts and storm advisories.

Many smartphone apps also offer email and text alerts to provide information on changing weather conditions. In addition, voice recognition software is available to allow you to access a weather forecast on your smartphone through voice commands.

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## Resources and technical information

### Examples of apps for smartphones:

- <http://gizmodo.com/5651021/the-best-weather-apps>
- <http://www.weather.com/apps>
- <http://weather.weatherbug.com/>

### Examples of weather alerts and resources:

- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/emailupdates/index.php>
- <http://weather.gov/>
- <https://profile.weather.com/#/>

### Examples of desktop, websites and other links:

- <http://www.weather.com/apps>
- <http://weather.weatherbug.com/>
- <http://www.accuweather.com/downloads.asp>

