COMPANION GUIDE TO ONLINE TRAINING

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INT-21: Reading the Alert
Weather Threat Assessment & Action Triggers
STUDENT COMPANION GUIDE

Household Alert Literacy, From Notification to Action

A condensed field reference for members who have completed the INT-21 online lessons.
5 Lessons | 1 Worksheet | Quick Reference Card

Edition v1.0 | 2026

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INT-21: Reading the Alert

Companion Guide to Online Training

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Published by Fortune Favors the Prepared.

Thomasville, Pennsylvania

fortunefavorstheprepared.com

Edition v1.0 | 2026

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It is a reference and worksheet supplement, not a standalone course.

ONLINE TRAINING ACCESS

Complete the five online lessons at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/int21/ to unlock your certificate of completion on the Course Map. This guide is your printable field reference alongside them, not a substitute for them.

INSTRUCTOR-LED GROUP TRAINING

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What This Guide Contains

Part I condenses each lesson's reference tables — the definitions and criteria you'll want on hand without re-opening the online lesson. Part II is a blank, fillable worksheet for the household trigger sheet you build in Lesson 5. Part III is the appendix: glossary, quick reference card, and doctrinal sources.

REQUIRED WORKFLOW

1. Complete each online lesson at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/int21/ before referencing its chapter here.
2. Use Part I as your condensed field reference after finishing each lesson.
3. Fill out the worksheet in Part II after completing Lesson 5.
4. Keep this guide with your household's emergency planning materials.

This guide is not standalone. It assumes the online lessons have already been completed and contains no instructional content, no Knowledge Check answers, and no scenario walkthroughs on its own.

Guide Map — What to Reference When

When you need…	Turn to…
A reminder of the Advisory/Watch/Warning/Statement ladder	Part I, Chapter 1
Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado damage-tag criteria	Part I, Chapter 2
Winter, flood, or marine product criteria	Part I, Chapter 3
Civil Emergency Message or public-safety alert definitions	Part I, Chapter 4
The trigger-sheet format and column legend	Part I, Chapter 5
A blank sheet to build your household's triggers	Part II, Worksheet 1
A term definition	Part III, Glossary
A single condensed lookup card for all five lessons	Part III, Quick Reference Card

PART I — QUICK REFERENCE

Condensed reference tables only. Complete each online lesson before using its chapter here.

Reference for Lesson 1: The Naming Logic

Term	What It Means
Advisory	A hazard expected to cause inconvenience — not yet a threat to life or property if caution is used.
Watch	Conditions are favorable for the hazard to develop. The planning window.
Warning	The hazard is occurring, imminent, or highly likely. The action window.
Statement	Informational, or a follow-up to an active Warning. Read the body text.
Emergency wording	Escalated language inside an active Warning for a confirmed, catastrophic event.

Reference for Lesson 2: Severe Convective Hazards

Product / Tag	Criteria
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Wind gusts 58 mph+ and/or hail 1″+ in diameter.
– Considerable tag	Wind gusts 60 mph+ or hail 1.75″+.
– Destructive tag	Wind gusts 80 mph+ or hail 2.75″+.
Tornado Watch	Conditions favorable for tornadoes within and near the watch area.
Tornado Warning	Tornado indicated by radar or confirmed by spotter; occurring or imminent.
– Particularly Dangerous Situation	Especially high-confidence, large or violent tornado threat.
Tornado Emergency wording	Confirmed, catastrophic tornado threatening a populated area.
Special Weather Statement	Sub-severe convective activity worth watching; below Warning criteria.

Reference for Lesson 3: Winter, Flood, and Marine Hazards

Product	Criteria
Winter Storm Watch/Warning	Favorable conditions / occurring or imminent significant snow, ice, or wind.
Ice Storm Warning	Significant ice accumulation, typically ¼″ or more.
Blizzard Warning	Sustained/frequent 35+ mph winds with visibility ¼ mile or less from snow, 3+ hours.
Flood Watch/Warning	Slower-developing river/area flooding, hours to days.
Flash Flood Warning	Fast-onset flooding, often within 6 hours or much sooner.
Coastal Flood Watch/Warning	Tidal/storm-surge-driven coastal flooding.
Small Craft Advisory	Winds/seas hazardous to smaller vessels.
Gale Warning	Sustained winds 34–47 knots.
Storm Warning (marine)	Sustained winds 48 knots or greater.

Reference for Lesson 4: Non-Weather and Civil Alerts

Product	What It Covers
Civil Emergency Message	Non-weather danger to life or property (e.g., hazmat release, infrastructure failure).
Local Area Emergency	An event requiring readiness for further action; not itself an immediate threat.
Evacuation Immediate	Immediate evacuation required; no preceding advance-notice stage.
AMBER / Blue / Silver Alert	Missing child / law-enforcement emergency / missing at-risk adult, respectively.
Source-weighing check	Who is the source and how would they know; is it independently confirmed; is the second source genuinely independent.

Reference for Lesson 5: From Alert to Action

Trigger sheet column legend — use this format for the worksheet in Part II:

Column	What Goes Here
Alert Type	The specific product — e.g. “Severe Thunderstorm Warning, destructive tag,” not just “severe weather.”
Action	The single thing your household does, in plain language.
Time Budget	How long you realistically have, from Lessons 2 and 3.

PART II — WORKSHEETS

Worksheet 1: Household Alert Trigger Sheet

Complete after finishing Lesson 5. List every alert type covered in this course.

Alert Type	Action	Time Budget

PART III — APPENDIX

Glossary

Term	Definition
Advisory	A hazard expected to cause inconvenience, not yet a threat to life or property if caution is used.
Considerable / Destructive	Damage-threat tags added to Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings since 2021, indicating higher wind/hail thresholds.
EAS / WEA	Emergency Alert System / Wireless Emergency Alerts — the broadcast infrastructure carrying both weather and civil alerts.
Flash Flood	Fast-onset flooding, typically within six hours of the causative event or much sooner.
Particularly Dangerous Situation	A designation for an especially high-confidence, large or violent tornado threat.
Statement	An informational product, or a follow-up update to an already-active Warning.
Warning	The hazard is occurring, imminent, or highly likely. The action window.
Watch	Conditions are favorable for the hazard to develop. The planning window.

Quick Reference Card

A single condensed lookup spanning all five lessons.

Hazard Family	Fastest-Moving Product	Realistic Time to Act
Severe Convective	Tornado Warning	Minutes, often under 15
Winter	Blizzard Warning	Hours (monitor the preceding Watch)
Flood	Flash Flood Warning	Under 6 hours, often much sooner
Marine	Storm Warning	Hours (monitor Gale Warning first)
Civil / Non-Weather	Evacuation Immediate	Immediate — no advance-notice stage

Doctrinal Sources

National Weather Service / NOAA Impact-Based Warning criteria; FEMA / Ready.gov household alert-response guidance. Confirm the exact held source documents before publishing.

Open Items

Flagged for confirmation before this guide is finalized for distribution:

- Doctrinal source documents — listed above by category only; confirm the specific NWS/NOAA/FEMA documents actually held and cited.
- Landing page URL — used fortunefavorstheprepared.com/int21/ throughout; confirm against the final WordPress permalink once set.