Severe Weather Criteria
(Source: http://www.cisw.org/severe.html)

1. Hail 3/4 inch diameter or greater. Relationship to coin size is helpful:

   - Dime (10¢) sized hail is LESS than 3/4" diameter

   - Penny (1¢) sized hail = 3/4" diameter

   - Nickel (5¢) sized hail = 7/8" diameter

   - Quarter (25¢) sized hail = 1" diameter

2. Winds of 58 mph or greater.

3. Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds or Wall Clouds.

   - Tornado - A violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground and extending from the base of a thunderstorm. A condensation funnel *does not need to reach to the ground* for a tornado to be present; a debris cloud beneath a thunderstorm is all that is needed to confirm the presence of a tornado, even in the total absence of a condensation funnel.

   - Funnel Cloud - A condensation funnel extending from the base of a towering cumulus or Cb, associated with a rotating column of air that is not in contact with the ground (and hence different from a tornado). A condensation funnel is a tornado, not a funnel cloud, if either a) it is in contact with the ground or b) a debris cloud or dust whirl is visible beneath it.

   - Wall Cloud - A localized, persistent, often abrupt lowering from a rain-free base. Wall clouds can range from a fraction of a mile up to nearly five miles in diameter, and normally are found on the south or southwest (inflow) side of the thunderstorm. When seen from within several miles, many wall clouds exhibit rapid upward motion and cyclonic rotation. However, not all wall clouds rotate. Rotating wall clouds usually develop before strong or violent tornadoes, by anywhere from a few minutes up to nearly an hour. Wall clouds should be monitored visually for signs of *persistent, sustained* rotation and/or rapid vertical motion.

4. Storm related damage. If trees are damaged, know the diameter, number of trees and whether the tree is/was healthy or not.

5. Heavy Rain in excess of 1 inch per hour.

6. Flash flooding.

7. Any other weather related information requested by the National Weather Service.