



Tornado forming near Groom, Texas, April 16, 2015. Photo: Kelly DeLay (CC BY-NC 2.0)

April 2016

Moon phases are Universal Time (UT)

 NEW MOON
  FIRST QUARTER
  FULL MOON
  LAST QUARTER

SUNDAY							MONDAY							TUESDAY							WEDNESDAY							THURSDAY							FRIDAY							SATURDAY						
MARCH S M T W T F S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31																												1							2						
3							4							5							6							 7							8							9						
10							11							12							 13 <small>GOES-8 launched, 1994</small>							14							15							16						
17							18							19							20							 21							22							23						
24							25							26							27							28							 29							30						
							<small>GOES-10 launched, 1997</small>																					<small>GOES-6 launched, 1983</small>																				

Lightning and severe storms

The GOES-R series Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) will be the first instrument of its kind flown in geostationary orbit. GLM will map total lightning (in-cloud and cloud-to-ground) continuously over the Americas and adjacent ocean regions. Research has shown that lightning flash rate increases can be a predictor of impending severe weather. Trends in total lightning that will be available with the GLM have the promise of providing critical information to forecasters that will allow them to focus on storms much earlier than they can currently, and before these storms produce damaging winds, hail or even tornadoes at the ground. Total lightning data from GLM has great potential to increase lead-time for severe weather warnings.

GOES-R pseudo Geostationary Lightning Mapper lightning jump data was used to issue a tornado warning near Simla, Colorado, on June 4, 2015. The lightning jump preceded tornado development by 16 minutes.



Credit: NOAA Hazardous Weather Testbed