Thunderstorm Terminology

Thunderstorm — Updraft — Downdraft
Cold front — Cumulonimbus cloud
Latent heat — Isolated thunderstorms
Cloudburst — Precipitation — Hail

Thunderstorm	lightning, thunder, rain, and dense clouds; may include heavy rain, hail, and strong winds
Updraft	an upward flow of air
Downdraft	a downward flow of air
Cold front	leading edge of a mass of heavy, colder air that is advancing
Cumulonimbus cloud	giant clouds piled on top of each other; top spreads out in the shape of an anvil
Latent heat	heat released when water vapor condenses; is the main driving energy of thunderstorms
Isolated thunderstorms	short-lived storms with light winds; usually do not produce violent weather on the ground
Cloudburst	sudden and short-lived heavy rainfall that usually occurs in a small area
Precipitation	any moisture that falls from clouds and reaches the ground
Hail	balls of ice about .2 inch (5 mm) to 6 inches (15 cm) that sometimes accompany storms

SAMPLE

Thunderstorm: lightning, thunder, rain, and dense clouds; may include heavy rain, hail, and strong winds

Thunderstorm: lightning, thunder, rain, and dense clouds; may include heavy rain, hail, and strong winds

SAMPLE

Updraft: an upward flow of air

Updraft: an upward flow of air

SAMPLE

Downdraft: a downward flow of air

Downdraft: a

downward flow of air

SAMPLE