

## THUNDERSTORM SAFETY TIPS

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch** is issued when severe thunderstorms are possible in and close to the watch area.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been spotted and is going to move through your county soon.

The important thing to do in a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is to remain *CALM*, but take precautionary action *IMMEDIATELY* to protect your life and property.

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### ACT NOW TO BE PREPARED!

Know the county in which you live and the names of nearby cities. Severe weather warnings are issued on a county basis.

Have disaster supplies on hand, including:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
  - First aid kit
  - Emergency food and water
  - Non-electric can opener
  - Essential medication
  - Checkbook, cash, credit cards, ATM Cards
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### BEFORE THE STORM

1. Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors.
  2. Watch for signs of approaching storms.
  3. If a storm is approaching, keep a NOAA Weather Radio or AM/FM radio with you.
  4. Postpone outdoor activities if storms are imminent.
  5. Check on neighbors who require special assistance: infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
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### DURING THE STORM

REMEMBER: IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, YOU ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. GO TO SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.

1. Move to a sturdy building or car. DO NOT take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, near fences, poles or in convertible automobiles. Make sure you do not pick a place that is subject to flooding.

2. If you are in the woods, take shelter under the SHORTER trees.
  3. Get out of boats and away from the water.
  4. If lightning occurs and sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep the windows up.
  5. Stay away from telephone lines and metal pipes, which can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Turn off air conditioners, power can overload the compressors. Use phones only in an emergency.
  6. If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible; minimize your contact with the ground.
  7. Get to higher ground if flash flooding or flooding is possible. DO NOT attempt to drive to safety. Most flash flooding deaths occur in automobiles.
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#### AFTER THE STORM

1. Check on neighbors who may require special assistance (infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities).
2. Avoid all downed power lines. Assume that all have live electricity.
3. Continue to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and you local media for latest weather updates.