

THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms can happen at any time. Severe thunderstorms can bring heavy rains, hail, high winds, lightning and local flooding. When severe thunderstorms threaten your area, listen to your local radio or TV station. These stations will provide updated information.

What Should You Do:

- Get inside a home, large building or car (not a convertible).
- Do not use the telephone, except for emergencies.

Thunderstorm Terms

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Conditions are right for a severe thunderstorm.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: A severe storm has been observed or has been detected by radar.

- Do not use bathtubs, water faucets and sinks. Metal pipes can conduct electricity.
- A car offers some protection from lightning, but can be a dangerous place to be during a flash flood or tornado.

If you are outside and there is no time to reach a safe building or car, follow these rules:

- Do not stand under a tall tree in an open area, on a hilltop, in an open field or on a beach.
- Get away from open water.
- Get away from tractors and other metal farm equipment.
- Get away from motorcycles, bicycles, golf carts and scooters. Do not hold metal objects, such as golf clubs.

FLOODING

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural hazards. Some floods develop over a period of days, but flash floods can result in raging water in just a few minutes.

What Should You Do?

- Listen to a radio or television station in your area. These stations will provide updated information and tell you what to do.
- Keep a stock of food that requires no cooking or refrigeration. Store drinking water in clean, closed containers.
- Keep a portable, battery-operated radio and flashlights in working order; stock extra batteries. Have first aid supplies and any medicines your family may need.
- Learn your community's flood evacuation routes and where to find high ground.

Flooding Terms

Flood Forecasts mean rainfall may be heavy enough to cause rivers to overflow their banks, or melting snow may be mixing with rainfall to produce similar effects.

Flood Warning or Forecasts of Impending Floods

describe the affected river, lake or tidewater, the severity of flooding (minor, moderate, or major) and when and where the flooding will begin.

Flash Flood Watches mean heavy rains (that may cause sudden flash flooding in specified areas) may occur. Understand that a flash flood can occur without a visible sign of rainfall in your area. Be alert to a possible emergency that will require immediate action.

Flash Flood Warnings mean flash flooding is occurring or imminent along certain streams and designated areas. Move to high ground immediately.

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Emergency **WEATHER** Information

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- If instructed, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances, but do not touch any electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
 - If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it! You and your car could be swept away.
- ### What To Do After The Flood?
- Before entering a building, check for structural damage.
 - Upon entering the building, use a battery-powered flashlight.
 - Watch for electrical shorts and live wires before making certain the main power switch is off.
 - Throw out any medicine or food that has had contact with flood water.
 - DO NOT handle electrical equipment in wet areas.
 - Report broken utility lines to police, fire and other appropriate agencies.

WINTER STORMS

What Should You Do?

- Listen to a local radio or television station or NOAA Weather Radio. They will provide updates on weather conditions.
 - Keep a battery-powered portable radio in working order; keep extra batteries.
 - Have flashlights, battery powered lamps and extra batteries.
 - Keep antifreeze in your car's radiator.
 - Carry a winter car kit that includes the following:
 - Flashlight
 - Tow chain or rope
 - Shovel
 - Bag of sand or salt
 - Extra mittens, gloves, hats, boots
 - Windshield scraper
 - Blanket
 - Emergency flares
- If a blizzard traps you in your car:
- Pull off the highway, stay calm and remain in your vehicle.
 - Do not set out on foot. A building may seem close but be too far to walk in a deep snow.
 - Set your hazard lights to “flashing” and hang a cloth or distress flag from the window or radio antenna.
 - If you run your car engine to keep warm, open a

Winter Storm Terms

Winter Weather Advisory: Winter weather conditions, such as cold, ice or snow, are expected to delay travel, cause major problems or create other types of dangerous conditions.

Winter Storm Watch: Usually issued 24 hours before the start of the event. Means potential exists for six-inch accumulations or more of snow or ice.

Winter Storm Warning: Usually issued within 12 hours of the start of the event. Means the occurrence of heavy snow, sleet or freezing rain is expected.

Blizzard Warning: Heavy snow, high winds and dangerously low temperatures are expected. Blizzards can cause severe weather conditions, such as zero visibility and life-threatening wind chill.

- window slightly for ventilation. This will protect you from possible carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep snow cleared away from the exhaust pipe.
- Be careful not to use up battery power. Balance the use of radio, heat and lights.
 - In extreme cold, use road maps, seat covers and floor mats for warmth. Use your coat as a blanket.