

Severe Storms

When you hear a severe storm is coming to the area you should first:

- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades or curtains.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.
- Turn on your weather radio and listen for a warning or a watch
 - **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** - Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur.
 - **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar.

When you are in severe weather:

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Cordless or cellphones not plugged into the wall outlet are ok to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords.

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- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid contact with anything metal.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the storm passes.

If you are in a vehicle with a member make the member remains calm and safe. If anyone has been struck by lightning call 911 immediately.