

WHEN BAD WEATHER STRIKES

Severe weather season is here, and it's a good idea to be prepared before bad weather strikes.

Understand the warnings and stay safe with these tips.

Tornado watch

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Tornado warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Go immediately underground to a basement, a storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

Tornado danger signs

- Dark, often greenish clouds
- Wall cloud – an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm
- Cloud of debris
- Large hail
- Funnel cloud
- Roaring noise

Advance preparation for a tornado

- Know your community's warning system.
- Choose a basement, a storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows as a place where household members and pets should go during a tornado.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

Mobile homes

- Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- Go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter.

Outdoors

- If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly reach shelter:

Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.

If flying debris occurs while driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options .Chose the option that best suits your circumstances:

1. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with you hands and a blanket if possible.

2. If you can safely get lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

10

tornadoes were reported in North Carolina last year. Three people were reported injured, and property damage was estimated at $6.9 million.

After danger has passed

- Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for information and instructions.
- If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Use battery-powered flashlights when examining buildings
- Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims.
- Clean up spilled medications, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids that could become a fire hazard.
- Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to persons in need until emergency responders arrive.
- Register on the American

Red Cross Safe and WellWeb site available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

Flood/Flash Flood Watch

Flooding or flash flooding in your area is possible.

Flood/Flash Flood Warning

Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Floods

- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Head for higher ground and stay there when a warning is issued for your area.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way.
- If you come upon floodwaters when you are driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the care quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars get swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.

Source: American Red Cross; NOAA.gov