

Myth vs Truth



Myth: It's not raining here, and skies above me are clear, therefore I am safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning can strike many miles away from the thunderstorm. If storms are in your area, but skies happen to be clear above you, that certainly does not imply you are safe from lightning. Though these "Bolts from the Blue" are infrequent, lightning strikes 10 to 15 miles away from the storm are not out of the question.

Myth: Since I am inside my house and out of the storm, I am completely safe from lightning.

Fact: Just because you have taken shelter inside, you are not automatically safe. While inside waiting out a storm, avoid using the telephone or electrical appliances and do not take showers or baths. Also stay away from doors and windows. Telephone lines, cords, plumbing, even metal window and door frames are all lightning conductors and pose a threat.

Warnings



The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm to be severe if it produces hail $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or larger, or wind speed 58 mph or more.

Watches: are issued when conditions are favorable for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, or flash floods. If you are in a watch area, make plans to seek shelter if necessary.

Warnings: are issued when severe weather has been reported or is imminent.

Seek shelter immediately if you are in or near the path of the storm.

Sirens are meant to warn those who are outdoors. If you hear a siren, seek shelter immediately and turn on a radio or TV to hear safety information.

CONTACT INFO:

Emergency Management
(920)869-6650
National Weather Service
(920)494-2363

Severe Weather Guide



What to watch for...

Severe weather is any dangerous meteorological phenomenon with the potential to cause serious damage.

High winds, hail, excessive precipitation, as are thunderstorms, downbursts, tornadoes. Regional and seasonal severe weather phenomena include blizzards (snowstorms), ice storms.

Prepare

- Know your area's risk for thunderstorms. In most places, they can occur year-round and at any hour.
- Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from the effects of a thunderstorm.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Identify nearby, sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.
- Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.

Respond

- When thunder roars, go indoors. A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- When you receive a thunderstorm warning or hear thunder, go inside immediately.
- If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones. Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- If boating or swimming, get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter, or vehicle immediately.
- If necessary, take shelter in a car with a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.
- Avoid flooded roadways. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Recovery

- Listen to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.
- If you are sick and need medical attention, contact your healthcare provider for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 and let the operator know if you have, or think you might have, or have been exposed to COVID-19. If possible, put on a mask before help arrives.
- Engage virtually with your community through video and phone calls. Know that it's normal to feel anxious or stressed. Take care of your body and talk to someone if you are feeling upset. The threat of a thunderstorm can add additional stress.