

BEFORE

-  Learn about your local community's emergency warning system for severe thunderstorms
-  Create a Family Emergency Response Plan for Severe Storms, and practice it with all family members
-  Prepare an emergency / disaster preparedness kit in advance, and have it easily available. SEE THE EMERGENCY PREP. KIT CHECKLIST.
-  Select a safe shelter area in your home away from windows, and in a structurally secure area.
-  Consider how you will protect your pets during severe storms.
-  Purchase and monitor a NOAA Weather Emergency Alert Radio.
-  Postpone outdoor activities if Severe Weather is forecast or approaching.
-  List items to secure or bring inside when Severe Weather is in your area or approaching.
-  Take Emergency First Aid, CPR Training classes

SEVERE STORM CHECKLIST

DURING

-  Avoid bathing and showering during severe weather.
-  Avoid using electrical equipment during severe weather.
-  When Severe Storm warnings are issued, seek shelter immediately.
-  During Severe Storms, monitor local media weather reports, and NOAA Weather Radio Alerts for important information.
-  If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.
-  If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

AFTER

-  NEVER drive through a flooded roadway after a storm. **TURN AROUND! DON'T DROWN!**
-  Stay well away from all downed trees and debris. There might be live power lines tangled in the debris.
-  Be aware that lightning can still strike up to 30 miles from an active storm
-  **AVOID** and report all downed power and utility lines. **ASSUME** that all downed utility lines are still live and energized. Keep others away.
-  Check your property for damage. Use caution for broken glass, nails, and sharp objects in the debris.
-  Check on neighbors and assist anyone in need of assistance.
-  Use caution when approaching animals after a storm. They may be frightened and become aggressive.
-  Report any damage or emergency situations to authorities immediately.

ALWAYS

-  **ALWAYS** monitor local media and NOAA Weather Radio during times of potential storm activity.
-  Prepare and practice your family Emergency Response Plan for Severe Storms
-  Maintain a 72 Hour Emergency Supply Kit for your home and family.
-  Keep your emergency shelter area clear of clutter and make it easily accessible during an emergency.
-  Keep sturdy shoes at the ready, especially at night. Broken glass and sharp debris will be everywhere.
-  Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads will be congested.
-  Include in your emergency plans an out of area contact or relative for each family member to check in with if separated during a storm.

