

# SEVERE WEATHER

## LIGHTNING

Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms. People who are outdoors, especially near tall trees, in/on water or on/near hilltops are most at risk.

It is a myth that if it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning. Lightning often strikes outside heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

## WHEN A STORM APPROACHES

- Move to a sturdy building or car.
- Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible automobiles.
- Get out of boats and away from water.

## IF CAUGHT OUTDOORS AND NO SHELTER IS AVAILABLE

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.
- If in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.

## FLASH FLOODS

Heavy rain can quickly turn small streams into raging rivers. Most flash flooding is caused by slow-moving thunderstorms or storms repeatedly moving over the same area. Topography, soil conditions and ground cover also play a role.

It is important that you identify an area safe from flooding. Avoid camping or parking along streams, particularly during threatening conditions.

If flooding is occurring or predicted, do not use any electrical devices and turn off the main circuit breaker or remove the primary fuse cartridge, but only if you can reach it without touching water.

## HOW TO RECEIVE WEATHER INFORMATION

NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Services. Most of Wisconsin is covered by one of seven frequencies. Weather radios are available at many electronics stores. Winnebago County's NOAA weather radio frequencies are:

AREA OF COUNTY	FREQUENCY BAND
North	162.550
Northwest	162.525
South	162.500

County SAME code # 055139

## PREPARE

Lightning, flooding rains, large hail and severe wind gusts can turn a fun afternoon at the park or campground into a dangerous adventure. If unprepared, a fast-approaching storm can become deadly. It's important that you and your family understand what to do if a storm approaches.

## KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WHEN YOU ARE TRAVELING

- What county and city are you visiting?
- Where will you go if threatening weather is approaching?
- How will you find out if a storm is moving toward your area?
- How will you receive warnings and forecasts before the storm strikes?

## **TORNADO WATCH**

Conditions are favorable for tornado development.

## **TORNADO WARNING**

A tornado has been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

- Seek shelter immediately, preferably in a basement or secure inner room with no windows.
- If you live in a mobile home, move to a safe place in a sturdy nearby building.
- Listen to your battery-powered radio and stay tuned for storm warnings and updates. Updates will most often identify where the tornado is located and which direction it is heading.
- **Do not** stay in your car.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

## **AFTER THE TORNADO PASSES**

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- Listen to local media for information and instructions.