

# 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 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 Service. 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 winds can turn a fun afternoon at the park or campground into a dangerous situation. 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 either been sighted by spotters, indicated on radar, or is imminent within the warning area.*

- Seek shelter in a sturdy building, preferably in a basement or secure inner room with no windows.
- The Red Cross and Weather Service believe that if you are caught outdoors, you should seek shelter in a basement or the lowest interior room of a sturdy building. If you cannot, quickly walk to a shelter:
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
  - If flying debris occurs while you are driving pull over and park.  
Now you have the following options as a last resort:
    - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands.
    - If you can get noticeably below the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

Your choice should be driven by your circumstances.

- If you live in a mobile home, immediately move to a sturdy building. A mobile home is extremely unsafe during a tornado event!
- **Preparedness begins by identifying a safe location well in advance of any severe weather. Also, receiving weather alerts wherever you are with a NOAA weather radio.**

## **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.