

At-A-Glance

Severe Thunderstorm

- Severe thunderstorms may occur individually, in clusters, or in lines.
- Most severe storms occur when a single thunderstorm affects one location for an extended time. Thunderstorms typically produce heavy rain for a brief period, anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.



Before a Severe Thunderstorm...

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades or curtains.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.

During a Severe Thunderstorm...

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are OK to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.

After a Severe Thunderstorm...

- Never drive through a flooded roadway. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Stay away from storm-damaged areas to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.
- Continue to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Did you know?

Thunderstorms often develop rapidly in warm, humid conditions.

For additional information on severe thunderstorms, go to www.ready.gov.



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