

How to Prepare for **SPRING STORMS**

Plan Ahead:

- ◆ **Practice** a severe weather plan for home and work.
- ◆ Make a communications plan so you can contact loved ones in the event of an **emergency**.
- ◆ The **Campus Emergency Notification System** will send out an automated message from the National Weather Service if a tornado warning is active in the area.
- ◆ Plug your electronics into **surge protectors** to avoid damage during a storm.
- ◆ If your electronics are not safeguarded by surge protectors, **unplug** all devices before a storm to prevent damage.
- ◆ Make a list of **important** phone numbers to have on hand in case of an emergency, like the phone numbers of all your utility companies.
- ◆ Keep an **emergency kit** in your car in the event you're stuck in severe weather on the road.

Watches vs. Warnings—Know the Difference!

A **watch** means that tornadoes and/or severe thunderstorms are possible in the area. Listen to the radio or watch the television for updates. Be prepared to move to safety.

A **warning** means that a tornado and/or severe thunderstorm has either been spotted by radar or is on the ground. In this case you need to take action and seek shelter immediately.

Tornadoes:

- ◆ Winds from tornadoes can exceed 200 mph.
- ◆ Flying debris is the most dangerous aspect of a tornado.
- ◆ Seek a sturdy shelter in an interior room away from windows on the lowest level and cover your head and neck.
- ◆ Do not try to outrun a tornado in a car. It is safer to get out of the car and seek shelter.



Thunderstorms:

- ◆ Severe thunderstorms can produce strong winds and large hail.
- ◆ Take shelter in a sturdy structure away from windows— a basement would be best.
- ◆ A vehicle is safer than being outside. Turn on emergency flashers, use wipers, find shelter.
- ◆ If thunder roars, go indoors!

Lighting:

- ◆ Thunderstorms produce lightning.
- ◆ Lightning kills an average of 30 people every year.
- ◆ Take shelter inside a sturdy structure. Do not take shelter under trees, in open fields or on high ground.
- ◆ A hard-topped vehicle is also a safe location.
- ◆ Avoid contact with anything with a cord, including landline phones, televisions and computers.
- ◆ Do not lie down or lean on concrete floors or walls. Electricity can travel through metal bars found in concrete.
- ◆ Stay away from water and plumbing. Electricity can travel through these.



Flooding:

- ◆ Flooding can be caused by snow melt, ice jams and heavy rain.
- ◆ More than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related.
- ◆ Never drive into flooded roadway or around a barricade.
- ◆ Spring flooding can affect large river basins.
- ◆ Ice jams can lead to rapid rises upstream from the ice jam.
- ◆ It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car.
- ◆ Turn around, don't drown!

Prepare for Power Outages:

- ◆ Use battery-operated flashlights and lanterns rather than candles. There could be a gas leak after a storm!
- ◆ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors shut to maintain cold temperatures as long as possible.
- ◆ Perishable and frozen food that has been held above 40° for over two hours should be discarded.

After the Storm:

- ◆ Avoid downed power lines and cables.
- ◆ Stay away from water. Downed power lines can be covered by water.
- ◆ Never drive through a flooded roadway.
- ◆ Do not enter seriously damaged buildings.
- ◆ Call 911 if someone has been injured.