



WEATHER SAFETY

National Weather Service Detroit / Pontiac

National Weather Service (NWS) Safety Tips:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/>

Hazardous Weather & Staying Safe

Michigan residents are faced with hazardous weather conditions numerous times every year. It is important for people to know what hazards are possible so they can take the appropriate precautions. Creating a plan that can be swiftly executed is the first step in protecting yourself and your family from dangerous weather conditions.



Photo Credit: Jim Barrett



Photo Credit: Sarah Huss



Photo Credit: Krystal Johnson

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Weather Service issues weather forecasts & warnings for the protection of life and property and to enhance the National economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Weather Service is the only agency able to issue weather **watches** and **warnings** in the United States.

SKYWARN SPOTTERS

Skywarn Weather Spotters provide a valuable service to the National Weather Service by reporting storm damage, precipitation, and other observed weather phenomena.

Please contact the NWS to find out when the next training class will be offered in your area.

SEVERE WEATHER WATCH VS. WARNING



Watch: Increased risk of a hazardous weather event occurring. Monitor for additional information & be ready to act if severe weather materializes.



Warning: Hazardous weather is **occurring or imminent** and is a threat to life or property. **Take shelter immediately** until the warning expires.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DETROIT/PONTIAC

9200 White Lake Rd
White Lake, MI 48386
Phone: 248-625-3309
FAX: 248-625-4834

Severe Thunderstorm Info

Issued for storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph

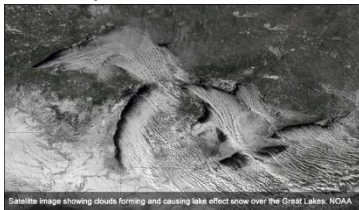
- Greatest threat that Michigan residents face due to rapid development
- Can produce: straight line winds over 60mph, large hail, flooding, lightning, & tornadoes
- Southeast Michigan averages 30-40 thunderstorm days per year
- Most thunderstorm related deaths & injuries result from straight line winds in Michigan

Severe Thunderstorm Safety

- **House/Workplace/School:** Go to a secure location away from windows.
- **Outside:** Go inside a sturdy building immediately. Sheds and storage facilities are not safe. Taking shelter under a tree can be deadly as the tree may fall on you with strong winds, or will put you at greater risk of getting struck by lightning
- **Vehicle:** Being in a vehicle is safer than being outside; however, drive to closest secure shelter if time allows.

Winter Weather

Many hazards threaten Michigan residents during the winter months including strong winds, heavy snow, snow squalls, dangerous wind chills, and even ice jams on local rivers. The National Weather Service issues Watches, Warnings, and Advisories to alert the public to the threat of dangerous conditions. Visit www.ready.gov to find out how you can prepare for both weather and non-weather related emergencies.



Additional Resources:

- www.weather.gov/dtx — **Local Detroit/Pontiac NWS Office**
- www.spc.noaa.gov — **Storm Prediction Center**
- www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov — **Weather Prediction Center**
- www.weather.gov/wrn/ — **Weather Ready Nation**
- www.noaa.gov — **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

Tornado Info

Issued when Doppler Radar indicates strong rotation near the ground and/or when a reliable tornado report is received

- Michigan averages 15 tornadoes a year, with the largest number of tornadoes during the warm months from April-September
- Possible day or night at any hour, even during winter months under rare conditions

Tornado Safety

- **House/Workplace/School:** Go to your basement, safe room, or interior room away from windows. Do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, or auditoriums.
- **Outside:** Go inside a sturdy building immediately. Sheds, storage facilities, mobile homes, or tents are not safe.
- **Vehicle:** Being in a vehicle is not safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If that is not possible, either get down in your car and cover your head, or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low lying area such as a ditch.

Lightning Safety

- It is never safe to be outdoors during thunderstorms.
- If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm.



- Picnic shelters do not offer protection from thunderstorms.
- Hard topped vehicles do offer protection from non-severe thunderstorms

Flooding Safety

Flooding is responsible for the most fatalities of any weather related hazard nationwide. Rushing water can be extremely powerful and can wash out roads. A car may float in only 12-24 inches of water, causing a motorist to lose control of their vehicle. Aside from being dangerous, this can also cause significant damage to your engine. The National Weather Service recommends never driving into water covered roads. It is always better to find another route and be safe.

