

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Wed May 2 2018

...Severe Weather Awareness Week Continues...

Today we review severe weather preparedness and safety.

Here are steps you can take before, during and after a storm to help keep safe this summer. Your chances of remaining safe during severe weather are greater if you follow these safety rules.

Before a storm, develop a plan. Whether at home, school, work, church or when outdoors, identify a safe place to take shelter. Conduct frequent drills. Know how to receive the latest weather information. Know what action you will take when a warning is issued.

Because all thunderstorms contain deadly lightning, postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are near. Move to a sturdy building or car. Stay away from tall objects such as towers, isolated trees and telephone poles. If caught outdoors, find a low spot. Make sure your choice is not susceptible to flooding. If in the woods, take shelter under smaller trees. If you are boating or swimming, seek shelter on land immediately. When thunder roars, go indoors!

If a tornado warning is issued, move to a pre designated place of safety, preferably a basement or interior room. Stay away from windows. Get as low to the ground as possible. Cover your head. If caught outdoors and a tornado threatens, lay flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris causes most fatalities and injuries during a tornado. Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes. Evacuate your mobile home and move to your designated place of shelter.

After the severe weather has cleared, if the power is out, use flashlights for light. Don't use flammable objects such as candles, torches or lanterns which can cause fires. Assume all downed wires are energized and can electrocute you. Report broken power lines to the utility company. Boil tap water before use. Do not visit disaster areas.

You should prepare now for the upcoming severe weather season. Be smart. Take part. Prepare.

Most current wireless devices can receive wireless emergency alerts for tornadoes and flash flooding. The federal emergency management agency, FEMA, relays national weather service tornado and flash flood warnings through cellular carriers to smart phones and other wireless devices.

More information is at www.weather.gov/albany or on social media @NWSAlbany.

Tomorrow we look at tornadoes, and conduct a New York statewide severe weather communication drill.

NWS Albany Staff