# Effective Severe Weather Planning Strategy
for Families, Large Outdoor Events, and Businesses

## Plan

Use this guide to **develop a weather safety plan**. Address each weather threat as it applies to your home, your location and your employees (flood, hail, blizzard, extreme heat/cold, tornado, and extreme wind).

Consider time of day when safety planning.
- Peak tornado occurrence is 4-9 pm
- Peak high wind occurrence is 4-9 pm

## Practice

**Awareness training**—Conduct meetings to make sure everyone knows the plan.

Practice the plan—conduct awareness briefings/drills:
- Evaluate time needed to shelter
- Evaluate suitability of shelters

Other ways to prepare:
- Severe Weather Awareness Week—participate in tornado drill day
- Attend storm spotter training

## Monitor

Have a designated **Weather Watcher** to monitor the sky and NWS “watches” and “warnings.”

Available information, before, during, after a storm:
- **Outlook**: what to expect that day
- **Watch**: within a few hours
- **Warning**: severe thunderstorm, tornado within an hour (or minutes!)
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio available to monitor severe weather information
- Online weather information—http://www.weather.gov/grb
- Smart phone app to monitor the weather and receive warnings

Two-way communication:
- Get information from your weather watchers
- Get the word out to family members, your employees, and spectators/participants

## Act

**Be proactive.**

Establish sheltering/response criteria:
- Based on watches, warnings, reports, other?
- Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter

How will action be initiated?
- Means of communication
- Backup plan

Where will people go?

Appropriate shelter? **Recommended safe rooms**:
- Interior of building
- Room without windows
- Roof tied to walls; walls tied to foundation
- Protection from “missiles” (flying objects)
- FEMA safe room guidelines—http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms
- NWS school/building safety—http://www.weather.gov/grb/schools

Enough space?
- Visitors, especially large groups
- People leading the group must have and know the safety plan
- Enough time to get there
- How will you communicate an “all-clear”?