The National Weather Service Presents
Timmy the Twister
Activities Book
Severe Weather Safety

Together, we can learn how to be safe!
Timmy can help you learn how to be safe during severe weather!

**Weather Terms**

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH** - A severe thunderstorm (damaging winds of 58 miles per hour or more, or hail three-fourths of an inch in diameter or greater) is likely to develop in your area.

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING** - A severe thunderstorm is taking place in your area.

**TORNADO WATCH** - means tornadoes are possible in your area. Stay tuned to the radio or television news.

**TORNADO WARNING** - means a tornado is either on the ground or has been detected by Doppler radar. Seek shelter immediately!

**FLASH FLOOD WATCH** - means that flash flooding (floods from heavy rain and/or melting snow causing a river to go over its bank) is possible in or close to the watch area.

**FLASH FLOOD WARNING** - means that flash flooding is actually occurring in the warning area. A warning can also be issued as a result of torrential rains, a dam failure or snow thaw.

**Lightning Safety**

**IF YOU'RE OUTDOORS:** If you hear the sound of thunder, go to a safe place immediately. The best place to go is a sturdy building or a car, but make sure the windows in the car are shut. Avoid sheds, picnic areas, baseball dugouts and bleachers. If there is no shelter around you, stay away from trees. Crouch down in the open area, keeping twice as far away from a tree as it is tall. Put your feet together and place your hands over your ears. If you're with a group of people stay about 15 feet from each other. Stay out of water, because it's a great conductor of electricity. Stay away from metal, clotheslines, fences, and drop your backpacks because they often have metal on them. If you’re playing an outdoor activity, wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike or thunder before continuing.

**IF YOU'RE INDOORS:** Avoid water. It's a great conductor of electricity, so do not take a shower, wash your hands, wash dishes or do laundry. Do not use a corded telephone. Lightning may strike exterior phone lines. Do not use electric equipment like computers and appliances during a storm. Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.

**IF SOMEONE IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING:** Call for help. Call 9-1-1 or send for help immediately. The injured person does not carry an electrical charge, so it is okay to touch them.

**Tornado Safety**

**DURING A TORNADO:**
Go to a basement. If you don’t have a basement, go to an interior room without windows on the lowest floor such as a bathroom or closet. If you can, get under a sturdy piece of furniture, like a table. If you live in a mobile home get out. They offer little protection against tornadoes. Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car, leave it immediately. If you are outside, go to a ditch or low lying area and lie flat in it. Stay away from fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.

**IF YOU'RE AT SCHOOL DURING A TORNADO:**
Basements offer the best protection. Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor away from windows. Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.

**Flood Safety**

During a flood, move to higher ground quickly, like the highest floor of your home. Avoid low spots, canyons and already flooded areas. Don't attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of the water is not obvious and the road may be washed away. Kids should never play around high water, storm drains or viaducts. Be cautious at night, because it is harder to see flood dangers. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
Timmy The Twister
Has Lost His Weather Words!
Can You Help Him Find Them?

Please help Timmy find his lost weather words by circling them in the puzzle above. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Here are the words Timmy is missing:

Weather  Warning  Tornado
Shelter   Severe Weather  Twister
Storm     Debris     Watch
Funnel Cloud
Timmy The Twister
Maze to Safety

Timmy wants you to show everyone how to get to safety. Beginning where it says “start”, can you make it through the maze to the storm shelter?
What's your weather IQ?

1. What's the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?

2. Where should you go if there's a tornado?

3. What can you use a thermometer for?

4. What are the four seasons?

5. Name two different kinds of precipitation.

6. Is it safe to be outside when it's lightning?

What color should Timmy be? Choose your own color and use your crayons to color him in!
Cut out these shapes and help Timmy make his daily weather forecast by choosing one for each box on the right. Add your own colors using your crayons.

Timmy the Twister
Needs your help!
Timmy The Twister
Cross Word Puzzle

ACROSS
1. The study of weather
2. A tornado produces a lot of this moving air
3. Precipitation in the form of ice balls
4. An atmospheric disturbance
5. A tornado produces this when it is comes into contact with something
6. A term used to indicate that a tornado is occurring or will occur
7. Another term for a tornado
8. A loud noise officials use to warn you of a tornado

DOWN
1. A funnel shaped cloud with violent wind
2. A tool scientists use to forecast severe weather
3. A bolt of atmospheric electricity
4. A prediction of future weather
5. A term used to indicate that conditions are right for a possible tornado
6. A test to teach you what to do in case of a tornado
Circle the areas that you think are safe to be during a tornado and explain why you chose those areas.
Let's see what Timmy and the National Weather Service have taught us!

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using these words:

Severe Thunderstorm  Flash Flood  Basement
Tornado Warning  Metal  Evacuate
Tornado Watch  Water  Windows

1. A ______________ offers the best protection during a tornado.

2. Stay away from ______________ during a tornado.

3. Avoid ______________ and ______________ when it is lightning.

4. A ______________ occurs when there are damaging winds of 58 miles per hour or more, and/or hail three fourths of an inch in diameter or greater.

5. The National Weather Service issues a ______________ when a tornado is possible in your area.

6. If you are asked to ______________, then do so immediately!

7. A ______________ occurs when floods from heavy rain and/or melting snow causes a river to go over its bank quickly.

8. The National Weather Service issues a ______________ when a tornado is on the ground or has been detected by Doppler radar.

Good job, kids! Now, you can teach others to be safe!

Does your town have a Timmy the Twister sign like this one to give you daily information about severe weather? If not, have your parents or city officials contact the National Weather Service in Memphis, TN (Jim Belles) at 901-544-0399.

TODAY'S SEVERE WEATHER OUTLOOK: HIGH