



Have you ever sat down with your family to discuss and plan what you would do in case of an immediate weather threat? If you haven't, now would be an excellent time to sit down with your family and devise a plan. Finding the time to do this can be difficult, but taking the 15 minutes to develop and practice a plan could save the lives of ones you love. Please remember these tips when planning and carrying out your actions.

Tornado Safety Tips

Before the storm:

- Develop a plan of action
- Have frequent drills
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone
- Listen to radio and television for information
- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to forecasts

In Homes or Small Buildings:

Go to the basement or to an interior room on the lowest floor (e.g. closet or bathroom). Upper floors are unsafe. If there is no time to descend, go to a closet, a small room with strong walls or an inside hallway. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris.

In Schools, Hospitals, Factories, or Shopping Centers:

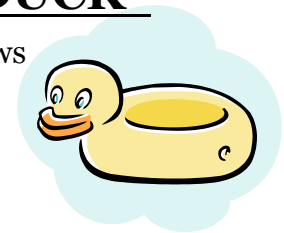
Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide span roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses. Crouch down and cover your head. Don't take shelter in halls that open to the south or the west. Centrally-located stairwells are good shelter.

If a warning is issued or threatening weather approaches

- Always remember **“DUCK”**
- Stay away from windows

“DUCK”

Down to the lowest level
Under something sturdy
Cover your head
Keep in the shelter until the storm has passed



In High-Rise Buildings:

Go to interior small rooms or halls. Stay away from exterior walls or areas with glass.

In Mobile Homes:

ABANDON THEM IMMEDIATELY!!!

Many deaths occur in mobile homes. If you are in a mobile home when severe weather approaches, leave it immediately and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. Determine your shelter ahead of time so you don't have to think about it when weather strikes. If no shelter is available, get in your vehicle and drive to the nearest shelter.

Sirens Are An Outdoor Warning System

Every year the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management communities get together and provide severe weather information for the public. Every year we emphasize the fact that the Outdoor Sirens are just that...an Outdoor Warning System. Every year we get a multitude of calls telling us that the sirens can't be heard while in the house.

Severe weather season usually begins in the early spring in Kansas. We all need to be prepared for severe weather at any time of the day or night and at any time of year. The National Weather Service, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, the 9-1-1 Center, and the Fire Department cannot notify every individual of the possibility of severe weather in their town. The local media outlets and All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio are your best sources for information concerning severe weather watches and warnings. Do not wait for the sirens to be your warning system at home, sirens may not be working if the power is out and oftentimes cannot be heard indoors. Sirens may not be activated for other severe threats such as damaging straight line winds in excess of 60 mph, large hail and flooding. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio and local media and then take the appropriate action for the severe weather threat. If it appears that a severe thunderstorm is approaching your location, do not wait for the outdoor sirens, take immediate action to protect your life and the lives of others in your home.



Hundreds of volunteer storm spotters, amateur radio operators, and first responders put their lives on the line every time there is severe weather in the local area. They do this because they care about the people in their communities and want to make sure those people are given the best chance at survival. The storm spotters, emergency managers, law enforcement and other volunteers immediately relay severe weather reports to the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service in turn disseminates that information to the media and public through warnings, statements and local storm reports. Getting the word out to the public in a timely manner may save lives. When severe weather threatens at night, when most people are sleeping, it can be especially dangerous. Oftentimes, in the heat of the spring and summer, we cannot hear outdoor sirens over running air conditioners. A NOAA Weather Radio with a back-up battery can make the difference for you and your family.

Take responsibility...listen to the media...take protective action....survive to enjoy the wonderful warm sunny days that also come this time of year.

Tornadoes and Traveling

If you observe an approaching tornado while driving, you should attempt seek shelter in a basement, shelter, or sturdy building. If no shelter is available and you are unable to safely drive away and flying debris is approaching:

- If you are a considerable distance away, drive your car in the opposite path of the tornado. If time does not allow you to drive away, consider the following:
- Pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
- Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
- Your choice in this last resort situation should be driven by your specific circumstances.

Lightning Safety

- Watch for developing thunderstorms and be ready to act when thunder is heard.
- Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from an area where it is raining. That's about the distance you can hear thunder.

If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter IMMEDIATELY!

- Outdoor Activities: Minimize the risk of being struck by moving indoors or to vehicles at the first roar of thunder.
- Inside Activities: Things to avoid
 - Corded phones
 - Computers
 - Other electrical equipment
 - Indoor/Outdoor pools
 - Tubs and showers and other things connected to metal plumbing
- **Wait 30 minutes after the last roar of thunder before going outside again.**
- Help a Lightning Victim: Call 911 and get help immediately. You are in no danger when helping a lightning victim. The charge will not affect you.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Flood Safety

- Floods, especially Flash Floods kill more people each year than any other weather phenomenon.
- As little as 6 inches of fast moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- As little as 18-24 inches of water is enough to float a car and carry it away.
- If you see a road barrier across a flooded roadway....
TURN AROUND. DON'T DROWN!
- Tune to the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for all flood and any other weather related information.
- Leave areas subject to flooding, such as dips, low spots and underpasses.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing streams, you don't know how deep the water could be.
- Never drive through flooded roadways.
- If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Report any flooding to your local authorities or to the National Weather Service.

Turn Around. Don't Drown!

Methods to Receive Weather Warning Information

Summary

The warning system can only be effective if you understand the benefits and limitations of the alerting methods available. There are a great deal of warning devices and methods available to you. We recommend that you take advantage of as many of them as possible. No one warning method is perfect and no one warning method can be guaranteed never to fail. By relying on one single method, such as the sounding of the sirens or the receiving information solely from broadcast meteorologists, you risk missing a warning if that system fails. By taking a systematic approach and getting information from more than one source, you are much more likely to receive the warning, even if there is a failure in one of the components.

We strongly recommend that you consider the following:

- Purchase a weather alert radio if you don't already have one.
- Most cell phone devices will offer Wireless Emergency Alerts to be sent automatically to your phone without registration required. Keep in mind though they **DO NOT** send severe thunderstorm warnings, severe or winter weather watches, or advisories. If you are interested in receiving these additional messages, please refer to the next recommendation.
- Subscribe to a calling service or SMS text based alerting system if you carry a mobile device.
- Rely on the sirens only for as a means of outdoor alert. If you hear them, seek out additional information as soon as possible.
- Turn to broadcast radio or television for critical details and follow-up information.

Let's all do our part to be as prepared and aware as we can as we head through the severe weather Season!



National Weather Service Kansas



Disaster Kit

www.weather.gov

Are you ready?

When Disaster strikes, it pays to be prepared. Having a Disaster Kit prepared will save you time and could save your life. A disaster kit should be in your *designated shelter* and it would also be helpful to have a *smaller version in a small backpack or other containers that are easily carried if you need to evacuate your home*. Disaster kits should be reviewed annually to be kept up-to-date with your family's needs. Items in your kit should include, but are not limited to:

Staple Items

- 3 day supply of Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- 3 day supply of nonperishable, ready to eat food items and manual can opener
 - High Energy Foods, e.g. Peanut Butter
 - Juices, dried Milk
 - Sugar, Salt, Pepper
- First Aid Kit (see list for individual items)
- Flashlight and extra batteries, or ones that generate their own energy by shaking them
- Battery operated or Hand Crank Radio
 - NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio
- Clothing— Think about the climate; warm and/or cool season clothes
- Shoes
- Sanitation and Hygiene items (such as hand sanitizer, moist towelettes and toilet paper)
- Matches in waterproof container
- Whistle
- Blankets
- Other tools (e.g. hammer, pliers)
- Cash and coins
- Photocopies of important documents, personal ID's and credit cards
- Baby needs
- Special Needs
 - Prescription medications, eye glasses,
 - Contact lens solution, etc.
- Games to pass the time (e.g. cards)

A graphic with the words "BE PREPARED" in large, bold, black letters. The word "BE" is positioned above "PREPARED". The text is set against a yellow sunburst background with a scalloped edge and a pattern of small dots.

First Aid Kit

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors & Tweezers
- 2-inch and 3-inch sterile roll bandages
- Waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Petroleum Jelly or other lubricant
- Latex Gloves
- Anti-bacterial Ointment
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Cold pack