



# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

# Fall Weather Safety



Know Your Risk, Take Action, Be a Force of Nature

[weather.gov/safety](https://www.weather.gov/safety)

# Fall Weather Hazards

- Drought
- Floods
- Fog
- Hurricanes
- Tsunamis
- Wildfire
- Wind
- Winter Weather



# Drought

## When water is scarce:

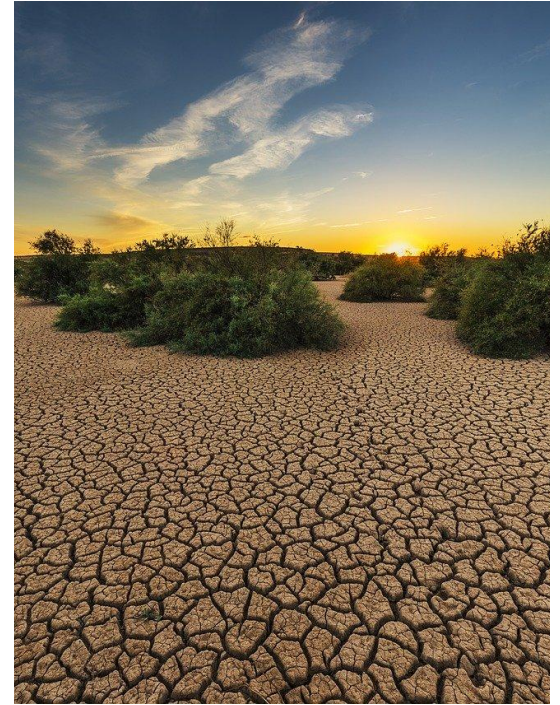
- Water your lawn less frequently, and only in the early morning/late evening
- Mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation
- Fix leaky sprinklers and adjust them so they only water your lawn (not the house or sidewalk)
- Don't wash your car unless absolutely necessary



# Drought

## When water is scarce:

- Turn off the water while brushing teeth and shaving
- Take shorter showers
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets
- Only wash full loads of laundry
- Use excess clean water for plants
- Install low flow showerheads



# Floods

## Before a Flood:

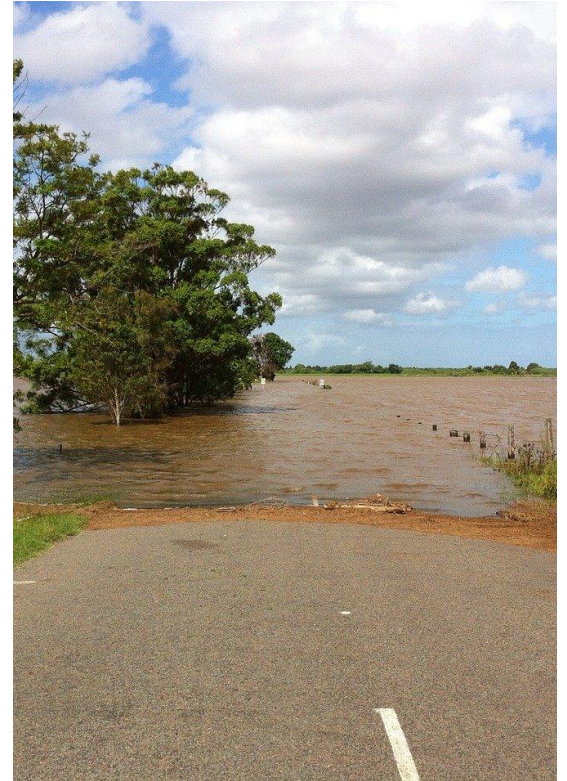
- Learn whether your home, school or place of work is at risk of flooding
- Find alternate routes to important locations
- Make a family communications plan
- Follow evacuation orders
- Keep an eye on the forecast by visiting [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)



# Floods

## During a Flood:

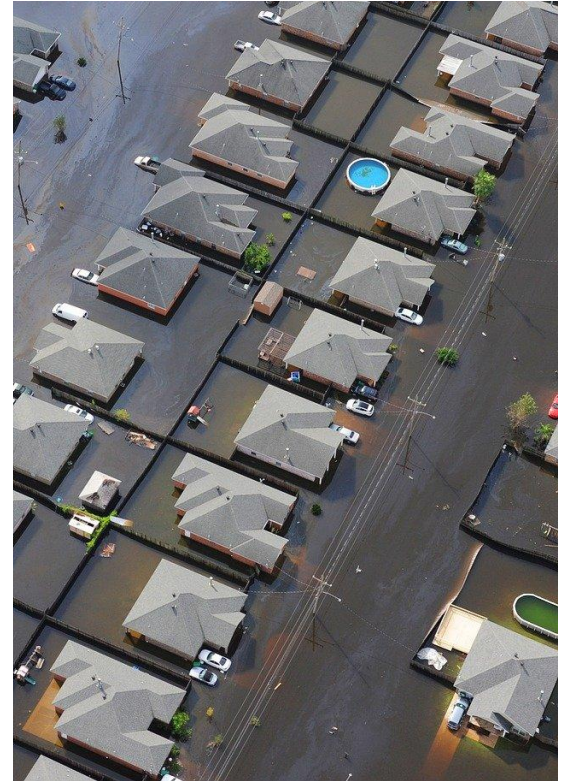
- Never drive or walk into floodwaters
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately
- Get to higher ground
- Get information from local TV/radio or your mobile phone



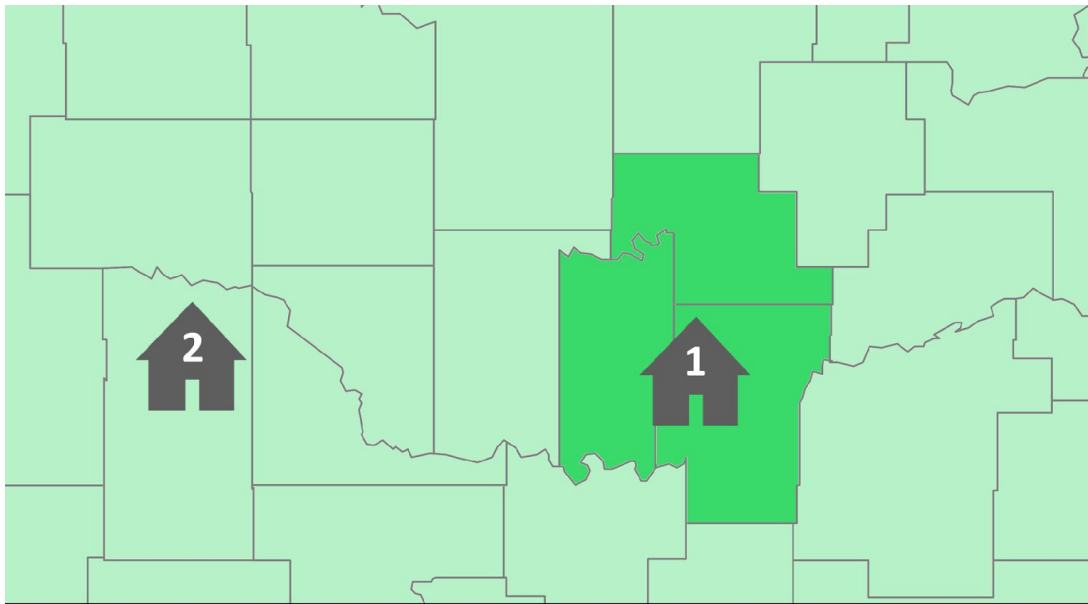
# Floods

## After a Flood:

- Avoid damaged areas and floodwaters
- Heed road closed and other cautionary signs
- Wait for the “all clear” before entering a flood-damaged structure
- Contact your loved ones via text or social media to keep phone lines clear



# NWS Flood Products



## Flood Warning

Flooding expected! Take Action.  
Confidence is high that flooding which poses a significant threat to life and property is occurring or will shortly. Seek higher ground if you are in a flood-prone area. Never drive through flood waters!

## Flood Watch

Flooding possible. Be Prepared.  
Confidence is medium that flooding may develop. Find out if you are in a flood-prone area. Check the forecast and be ready to take action if a flood warning is issued.



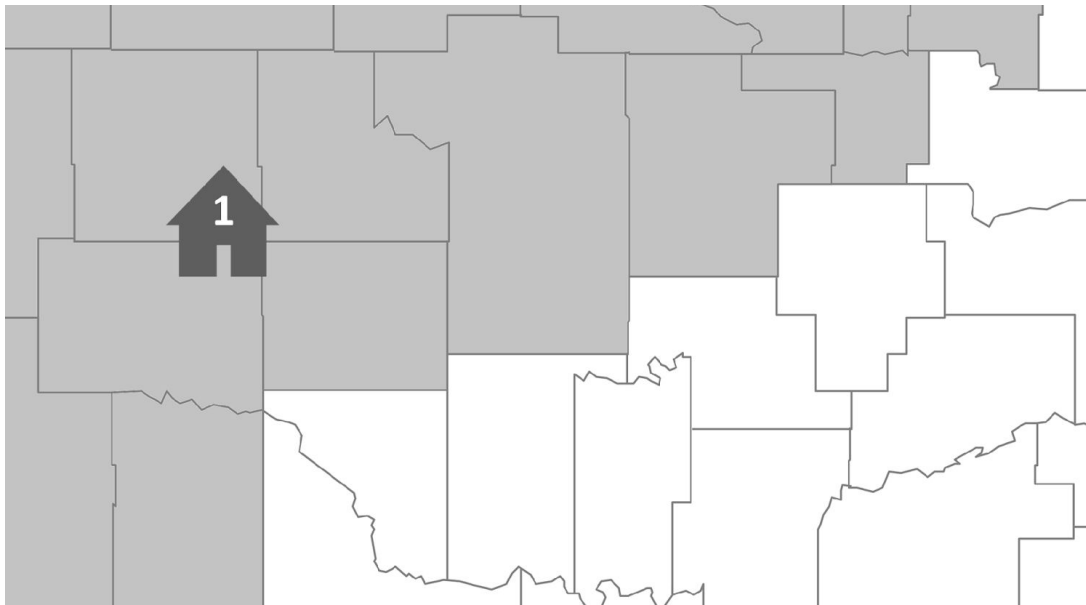
# Fog

## Driving in Fog:

- Slow down when you encounter fog
- Use your low beam headlights
- Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles unless absolutely necessary
- If you must pull off on the side of the road, turn off your lights and use your parking brake to avoid being hit by cars who may not realize you've pulled over



# NWS Fog Products



## Dense Fog Advisory

Dense fog expected! Exercise caution. Areas of dense fog will reduce visibility and pose a threat to motorists. Allow extra time for travel, drive slowly, and use your low-beam headlights.

# Hurricanes

## Preparing your family:

- Know if you live in a hurricane storm surge evacuation area
- Know your home's vulnerability to flooding, wind, and storm surge
- Understand NWS warnings and watches
- Put together an emergency supply kit (don't forget pet supplies)
- Create a family emergency plan



# Hurricanes

## Preparing your home:

- Remove all lawn furniture and items that will blow around
- Board up your windows with plywood or approved shutters
- Fill your car's gas tank
- Get cash
- Reinforce your garage door
- Secure your boat



# Hurricanes

## Before evacuating:

- Have a plan that includes where you will go and what to pack
- If you have a pet, identify shelters where they are accepted
- Listen to evacuation orders, be prepared, and evacuate early
- If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water, and unplug your appliances



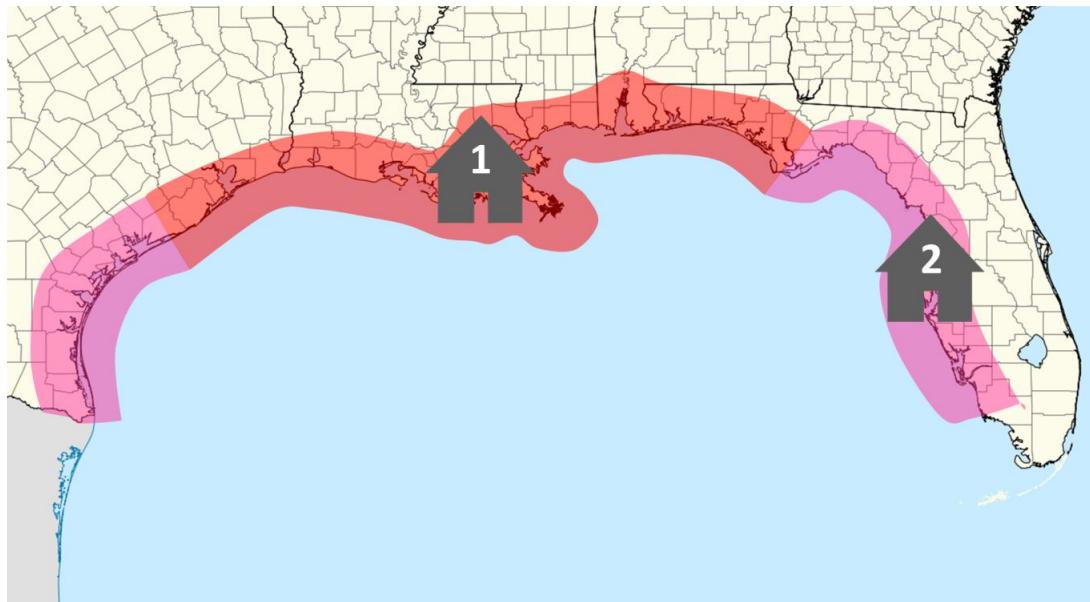
# Hurricanes

## When evacuating:

- Take only what you need — be sure to remember your medications and identification
- Follow roads emergency workers are recommending, even if there is traffic (other routes might be blocked)
- Drive carefully
- Contact your family



# NWS Hurricane Products

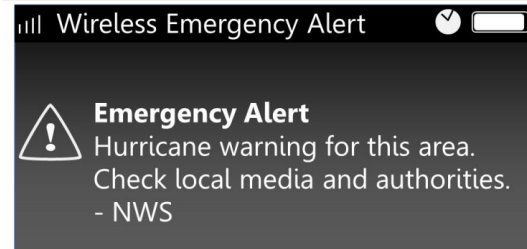


## 1 Hurricane Warning

Hurricane expected! Seek shelter.  
Hurricane force winds are expected in your area. Seek shelter in a sturdy structure or evacuate if needed.

## 2 Hurricane Watch

Hurricane possible. Be prepared.  
Hurricane force winds are possible in your area. Prepare your home by boarding up windows and moving loose items indoors. Have an emergency supply kit ready.



# Tsunamis

## Prepare for a tsunami:

- Have multiple ways to receive warnings
- Make an emergency plan, including family communication and evacuation plans
- Map out routes to safe places on high ground or inland, practice walking them
- Put together portable disaster supply kits

Visiting the coast? Ask about local tsunami safety.



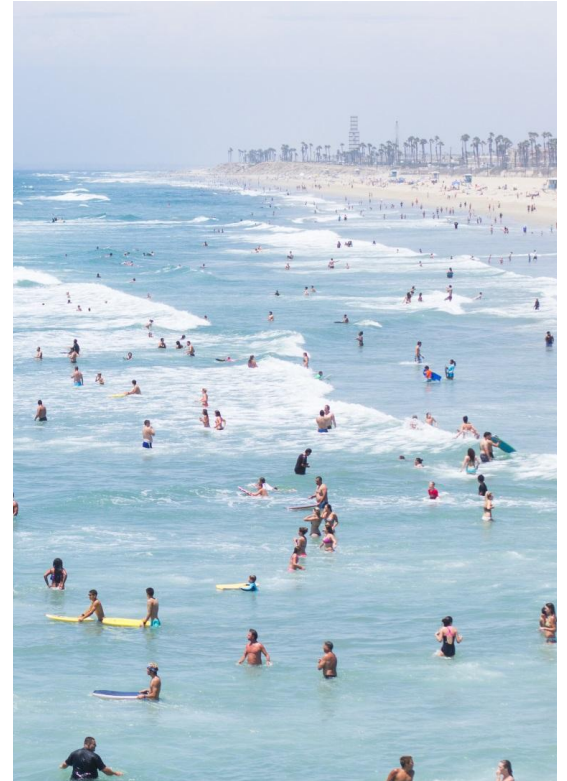


# Tsunamis

If you experience any of these natural warning signs at the coast, a tsunami could be coming:

- Strong or long earthquake(s)
- Sudden rise or fall of the ocean
- A loud roar from the ocean

If you experience any of these, go to high ground or inland. Do not wait for official instructions.



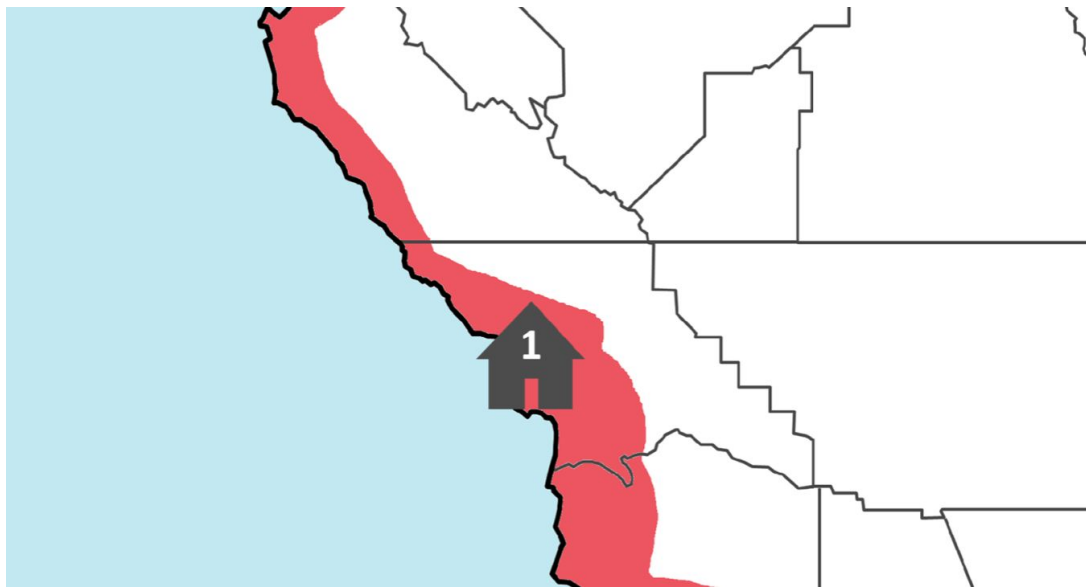
# Tsunamis

## When a Tsunami Warning is issued:

- Stay out of the water
- Stay away from beaches and waterways
- Get information from local TV, radio, or online
- Go to high ground or inland if officials ask you to evacuate

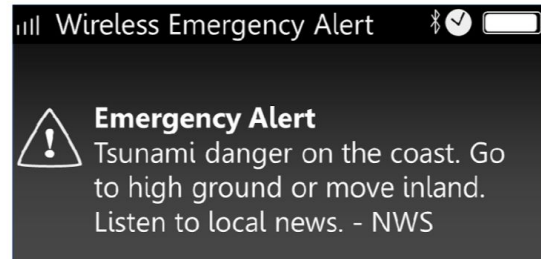


# NWS Tsunami Products



## Tsunami Warning

A Tsunami is expected! Take Action!  
Danger! A tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. Move to high ground or inland immediately!



# Wind

## Straight line winds:

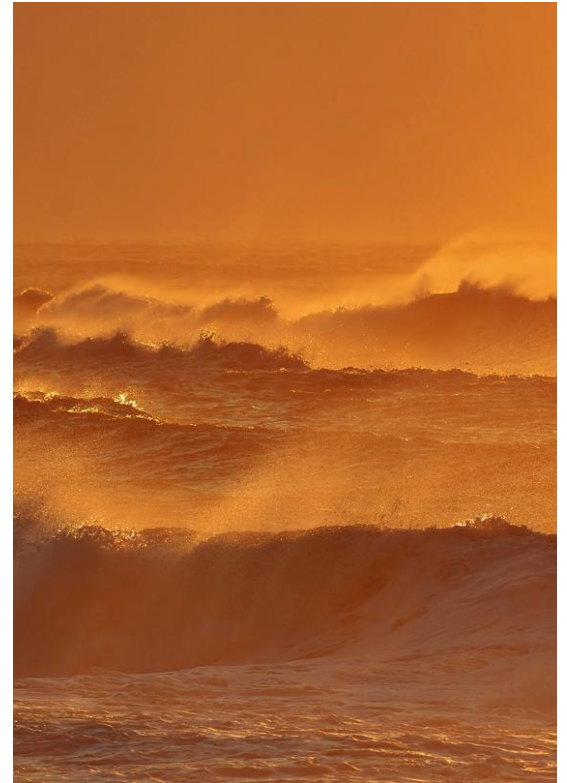
- Straight line winds are strong damaging winds that have no rotation
- These are typically associated with severe thunderstorms and squall lines
- Wind speeds can reach up to 125 mph and create large damage paths to that of a tornado



# Wind

## Wind from powerful storm systems:

- Created by a strong pressure gradient
- Can knock down trees and power lines, and blow over trailers and trucks
- Makes driving hazardous — keep two hands on the wheel and avoid large vehicles such as semi-trucks



# Wind

## Dust storms:

- Dust storms are created by wind blowing over a dry region
- Blowing dust can reduce visibility to nearly zero
- Dust storms can last mere minutes or up to an hour
- Seek shelter in the event of a dust storm
- If driving, pull over as soon as possible, turn off your lights, and keep your seatbelt buckled



# Wind

If a High Wind Warning is issued:

At home:

- Seek shelter inside, away from windows.

Outside:

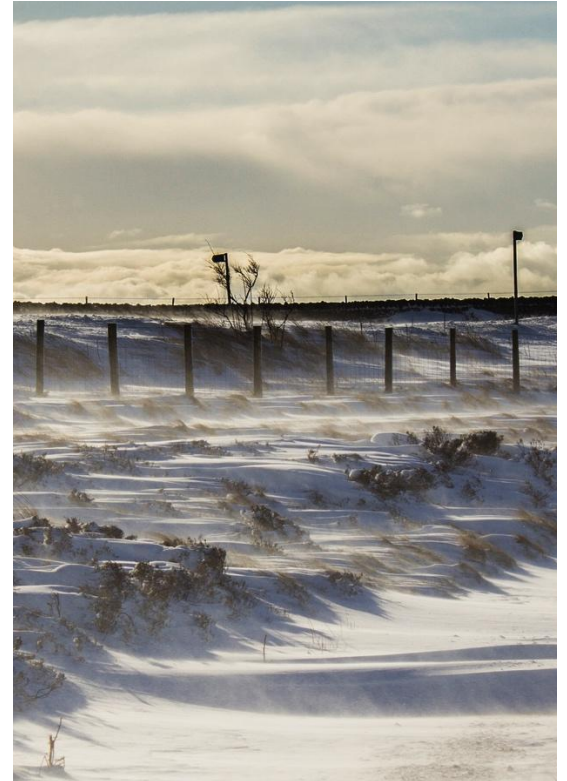
- Seek shelter immediately.
- If you cannot find shelter, avoid trees, power lines, and objects that could blow around. Stay away from the side of the road.



# Wind

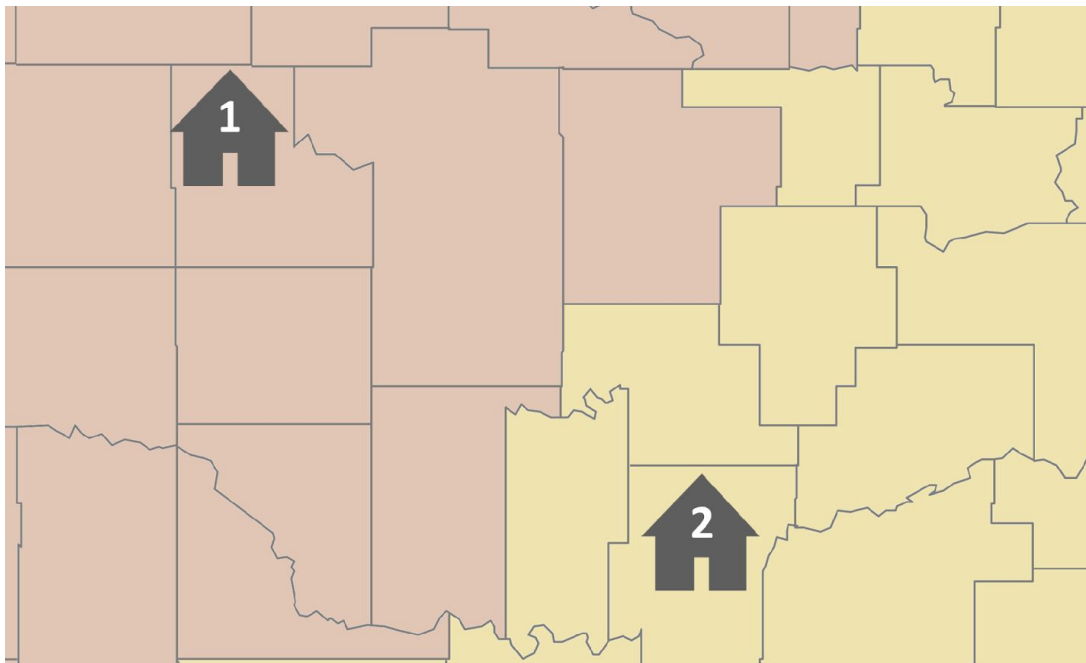
## When driving:

- Slow down
- Keep two hands on the wheel
- Stay away from trucks, buses, and vehicles towing trailers
- Watch for flying debris, downed power lines, and branches





# NWS High Wind Products



## High Wind Warning

Strong wind expected! Plan ahead. Confidence is high that gusty winds will make travel difficult, especially for large vehicles. Damage to trees, powerlines, and buildings is also possible. Take cover in a sturdy structure and avoid travel.

## High Wind Watch

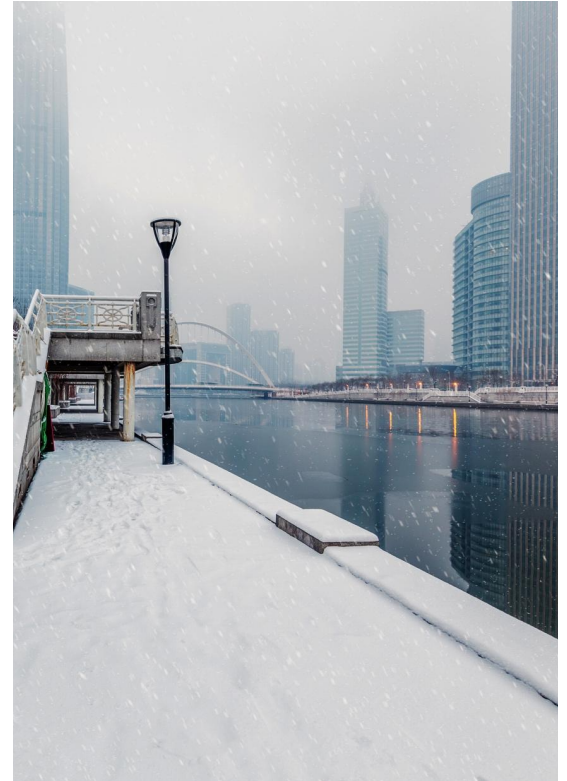
Strong wind possible. Be Prepared. Confidence is medium that gusty winds will develop. If they do develop it could make travel difficult and cause damage. Check the forecast, and make you're prepared if strong winds do occur.



# Winter Weather

## Freezing rain/sleet:

- Make sure your trees are trimmed and away from power lines
- Have an emergency kit in case the power goes out
- Avoid driving — if you must, drive slowly and give extra space to the cars in front of you
- The NWS will issue a Winter Weather Advisory or an Ice Storm Warning



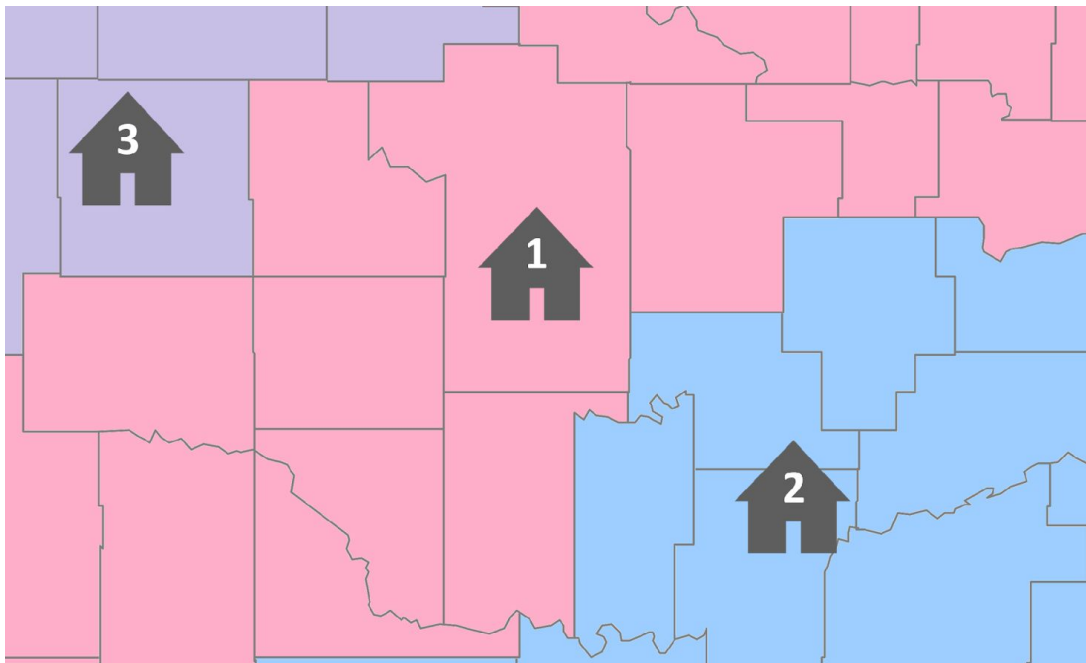
# Winter Weather

Be prepared for early season storms:

- Winterize your car with snow tires and a winter driving safety kit
- Restock your emergency kit with extra batteries, enough food, and more
- If you have a generator, make sure it is in working order and review basic safety — **NEVER** run a generator in an enclosed space such as a garage



# NWS Winter Products



## Winter Storm Warning

Snow, sleet, or ice expected! Take Action!  
Confidence is high that a winter storm will produce heavy snow, sleet or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.

## Winter Storm Watch

Snow, sleet, or ice possible! Be prepared.  
Confidence is medium that a winter storm could produce heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.

## Winter Weather Advisory

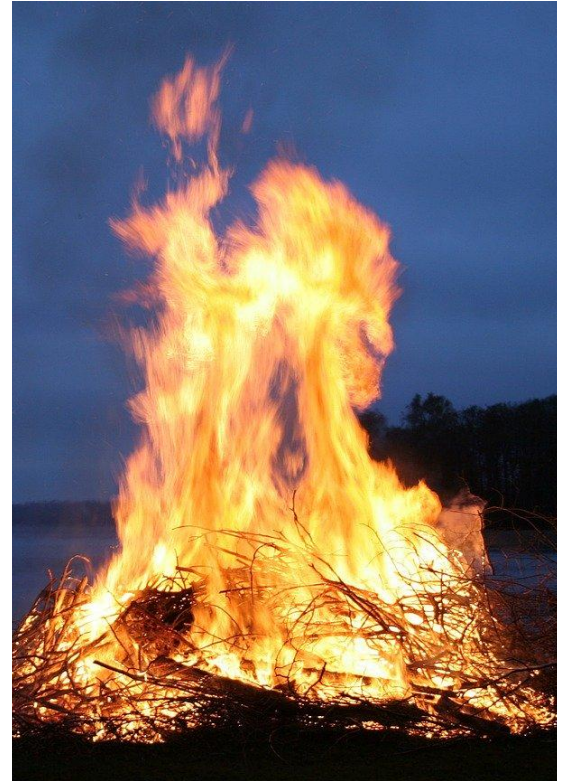
Wintry weather expected. Exercise caution.  
Light amounts of wintry precipitation or patchy blowing snow will cause slick conditions and could affect travel if precautions are not taken.



# Wildfires

## Preventing wildfires:

- Wildfires are most often started by lightning or humans
- When camping, stay with your fire when lit, and make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving
- Be smart and safe when burning debris — keep the fire small and don't burn on windy days
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking materials



# Wildfires

## Before a wildfire:

- Plan a primary evacuation route, and identify a secondary route in case the first is blocked
- Select building materials and plants that are fire resistant
- Create a family emergency plan and make a list of items you'll need to pack for evacuation



# Wildfires

## If told to evacuate:

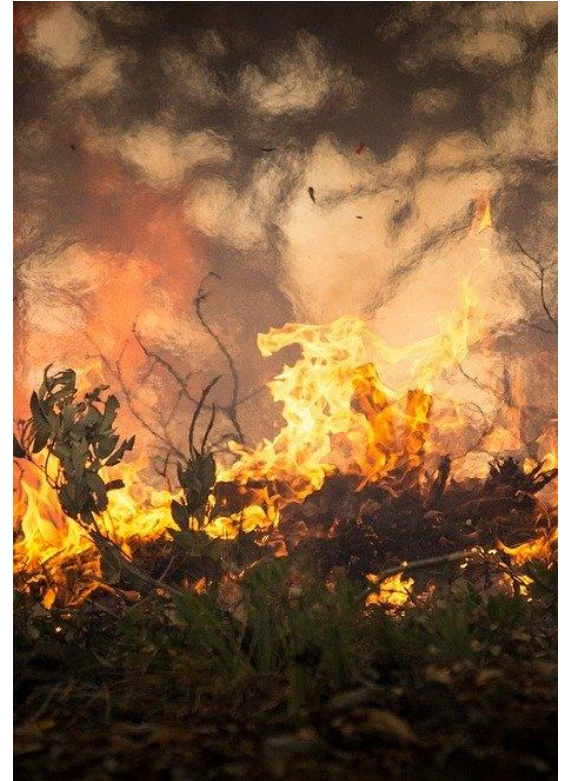
- Follow instructions from local officials
- Don't deviate from the identified evacuation route (other roads may be blocked)
- If you have time to gather belongings, do so quickly — if not, leave immediately
- Contact your family and let them know that you're okay



# Wildfires

If you encounter a wildfire:

- Drive or walk away from the smoke and flames immediately
- Do not stop to watch or take pictures
- Call 911





# Fall Weather Safety Resources

[weather.gov/safety/drought](https://weather.gov/safety/drought)  
[weather.gov/safety/flood](https://weather.gov/safety/flood)  
[weather.gov/safety/fog](https://weather.gov/safety/fog)  
[weather.gov/safety/hurricane](https://weather.gov/safety/hurricane)  
[weather.gov/safety/tsunami](https://weather.gov/safety/tsunami)  
[weather.gov/safety/wildfire](https://weather.gov/safety/wildfire)  
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[weather.gov/safety/winter](https://weather.gov/safety/winter)

