Be Prepared For Severe Weather

Severe weather refers to any dangerous meteorological phenomena with the potential to cause damage, and/or loss of human life. Types of severe weather phenomena vary, depending on the latitude, altitude, and topography. Hail, excessive precipitation, and wildfires are forms of severe weather, as are thunderstorms, downbursts, and tornadoes.

**Heavy Rains**

- Have rain gear and an emergency kit.
- In case of a flash flood, climb to higher ground.
- Do not drive through standing water. You don’t know how deep it may be.

**Lightning Risk Reduction**

- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.

**Tornadoes**

- If you see a funnel cloud, do not remain outside, seek shelter immediately.
- If there is not a tornado shelter, take shelter in an inside room with no windows. When possible move to the basement.
- If there is no shelter available, find a ditch or low ground point. Lie face down covering your head.

There are many ways to be prepared for severe weather. For more information, check out [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

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