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Severe Weather and Evacuation Tips for Office and Home

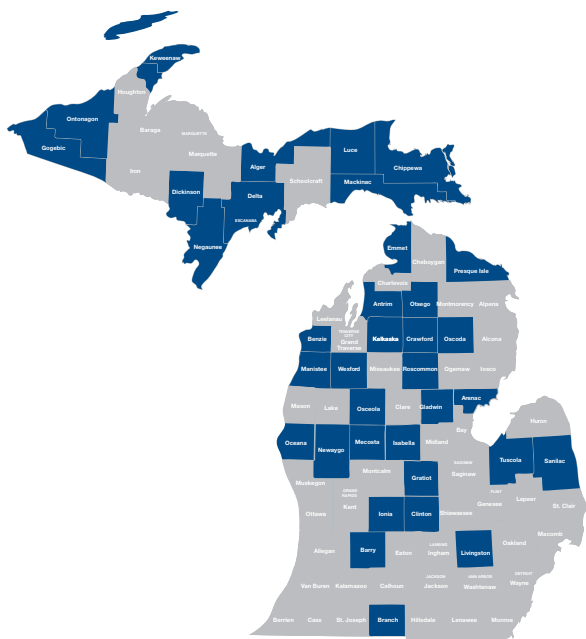
Tornadoes are the most erratic, most unpredictable and most violent of storms. They can happen anytime... anywhere, but are most common in Wyoming from May through September. The tornado funnel may range from a few yards to nearly a mile in width. It may travel slowly or as fast as 60 mph. It may skip along or even make a U-turn. It may move along the ground a few hundred feet or several hundred miles. Learn the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning.

Tornado Watch:

Indicates that conditions are right for a tornado to develop and that the sky should be watched. Be alert to changing weather conditions.

Tornado Warning:

Indicates a tornado has been sighted or that radar indicates one has developed or could develop within minutes. Warnings will give the location of the tornado and the area immediately affected by the warning. When a warning is issued, move quickly to shelter.



Warnings: Continued

Immediate Dangers:

The immediate threat from tornadoes is danger to life and property from violently whirling winds and debris hurled through the air by the winds. Wind speeds in tornadoes can exceed 250 mph.

Long-Term Dangers:

Long-term risks include the possibility of building collapse, fallen trees and power lines, broken gas lines, broken sewer and water mains, and the outbreak of fires. Agricultural crops and industries may be damaged or destroyed.

Straight-line Winds:

Responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage
Winds can exceed 100 mph!

One type of straight-line wind, the down-burst, can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado and can be extremely dangerous to aviation.

During the summer in the western states, thunderstorms often produce little rain but very strong wind gusts and dust storms.

Thunder Storm Facts:

Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas when compared with hurricanes and winter storms.

The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes. Nearly 1,800 thunderstorms are occurring at any moment around the world. That's 16 million a year!

Despite their small size, all thunderstorms are dangerous.

Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes, Heavy rain from thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding, Strong winds, hail, and tornadoes are also dangers associated with some thunderstorms.

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Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, only about 10 percent are classified as severe.

Your National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4-inch in diameter, wind 58 mph or higher, or tornadoes. Take the time NOW to understand these dangers and learn basic safety rules!

Lightning:

Occurs with ALL thunderstorms.

- Averages 93 deaths and 300 injuries each year.
- Causes several hundred million dollars in damage to property and forests annually.
- While the flashes we see as a result of a lightning strike travel at the speed of light (670,000,000 mph) an actual lightning strike travels at a comparatively gentle 270,000 mph.
- This means it would take about 55 minutes to travel to the moon, or around 1.5 seconds to get from London to Bristol.
- 1,400,000,000 strikes every year



Develop a Plan:

- Pick two places to meet: A spot outside your home for an emergency and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated.
- Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.
- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Plan on how to take care of your pets and livestock.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Working with neighbors can save lives and property.
- Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood could work together before, during and after a disaster until help arrives.
- Things to consider: Special skills (medical, technical), how to care for those with special needs (disabled or elderly), and child care in case the parents aren't home or can't get home.

Practice and Maintain Your Plan:

- Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct emergency drills at Home and Work.
- Replace stored water every 3 months and food every six months.
- Test and Check your Fire Extinguishers.
- Test your Smoke Detectors monthly.
- Check the batteries in your flash lights and in your radio at least once a year.

Severe Weather Take Cover:

- In the event life threatening weather conditions should develop, such as a Tornado a TORNADO WARNING shall be issued by via Radio/TV and the Your Counties Defense
- Warning System (3 minutes of steady wailing)
- When this is heard please take cover in the Men's and Women's Restrooms until such time an all clear is sounded.
- At the time of the warning, Please if you can gather your personal belongings. (like a purse etc...)
- If any guest are in the building have them stay with you during the server weather condition.
- If at all possible take a portable radio with you to stay informed of the weather or emergency.

Stay away from exposed areas such as windows or glass door ways at all times. Please exit to the take cover areas and stay calm at all times. Make sure that some one in the office area does a final sweep to make sure all employees and family members are accounted for.



Is there a tornado in Michigan?

On average Michigan has 15 tornadoes per year. Tornadoes are known to develop rapidly, with little advanced warning.

Has Michigan ever had an F5 tornado?

There has only been one F5 tornado on record in Michigan and it caused an incredible amount of damage. The storm, called the Flint-Beecher Tornado was categorized as "Incredible" with wind speeds between 261-318 mph and the storm was the ninth deadliest tornado in United States history.

How many thunderstorms occur each year in Michigan?

It starts with a Severe Thunderstorm. DETROIT (FOX 2) - NOAA estimates there are 16 million thunderstorms in the world each year. 100,000 of them occur in the United States. In Michigan, we see an average of 30 days of thunderstorms per year.

Ref: NOAA, National Weather Service



SET YOUR CLOCKS

CHECK YOUR STOCKS



My emergency preparedness stockpile checklist

Pack the following items in a clearly labeled, easy-to-carry, sealable container and store in a place that is easy to access. Check your stockpile once or twice a year. A good rule of thumb is to check your stockpile when you change your clocks for daylight saving time. Replace any supplies that are missing or have expired or have been damaged.

Emergency supplies

- Flashlight and batteries
- Manual can opener
- Battery-operated radio (and batteries) or hand-cranked radio
- Matches in waterproof container
- Utility knife
- Paper and pencil
- Cash, traveler's checks and coins
- Paper cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Garbage bags
- Pet food
- Whistle
- Small, canister ABC-type fire extinguisher
- Needles, thread
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape, scissors
- Extra set of keys and IDs
- Local maps



- Small tent, compass and shovel
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper

When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, this can be used as a disinfectant. In an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use bleach with added cleaners or bleach that is scented.

Food and water



- Three days worth of drinking water, with one gallon of water per person per day. Do not stockpile soda.
- Three-day supply per person of non-perishable foods. Take into consideration special dietary needs. Avoid salty foods that make you thirsty and include canned foods with high liquid content.

First aid and emergency medical kit

- First aid manual
- Bandages, including gauze and bandage tape
- Germicidal hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Non-latex gloves
- Antibacterial ointment
- Scissors (small, personal)
- Tweezers
- CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield
- Prescription medications (such as heart and blood pressure medications or asthma inhalers) and medical supplies, such as insulin and blood-pressure monitoring equipment, if applicable
- Non-prescription medication, such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids and laxatives



Personal items

- Extra prescription eyeglasses, if applicable
- Denture and contact lens supplies, if applicable
- Hearing aid batteries, if applicable
- Diapers and infant supplies, if applicable
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing for each person, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. If you live in a cold climate, add jacket or coat, hat, mittens and scarf.
- Moist towelettes, feminine hygiene supplies, latex gloves and other items for personal sanitation

Important documents: Store in waterproof, portable container

- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Insurance policies and will
- Contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, Social Security cards
- Immunization records
- Bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and company contact information
- Prescription information
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Veterinary records for pets, as well as pet photos

