

THUNDERSTORMS

If You Are Outside

- Go indoors immediately. If you cannot get inside, take shelter in a stopped vehicle.
- If you are in an open area, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley and watch out for flash flooding.
- If you are in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a growth of small trees.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and seek shelter immediately.

If You Are in a Car

- Stay in your car if you are on the road. If driving conditions worsen, find a safe place to pull over and park.
- Avoid touching metal or other surfaces in and on your vehicle.

If You Are Inside a Building

- Stay away from windows and doors. Strong thunderstorms can cause flying debris that could do significant damage.
- Unplug appliances, air conditioners, and other electrical items like computers to avoid damage from a power surge.
- Avoid showering, bathing, washing dishes, or doing laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Avoid contact with metal objects (yard equipment, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.).
- Stay inside until at least 30 minutes after you last hear thunder or see lightning.





STAY INFORMED

- Enable emergency alerts on your cell phone
- Subscribe to your community's emergency alert system
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio & local news broadcasts
- Follow public safety accounts on social media



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR (EMD)



- EMDs prepare for and lead the response to disasters in your community
-  www.mass.gov/find-your-local-emergency-management-director-emd
-  Contact your local fire, police, or emergency management department

A GUIDE TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

What do you need to know?



#ReadyMA



Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

DO YOU FEEL PREPARED FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S COMMON HAZARDS?

KNOW YOUR DEFINITIONS

Watch...Severe Weather is Possible

Be Prepared

Warning...Severe Weather is Expected

Take Action

FLOODING

DO NOT...

- Do not touch electrical equipment while wet or standing in water
- Do not drive through flooded roadways (12 inches of water can sweep away a vehicle) or around road barriers.
- Do not walk in flowing or standing floodwaters, if possible

DO...

- Create an emergency preparedness kit, including copies of important documents
- Create an emergency plan, including how to get to higher ground
- Consider everyone's needs, including those with access and functional needs
- Listen to local authorities and Stay Informed by monitoring local news & radio, social media, etc.

CREATE AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

Checklist (for up to 3 days)



- Water - 1 gallon per person for a few days



- Non-perishable food items



- Battery powered or hand-crank radio and NOAA Weather Radio



- Flashlight



- First-Aid Kit



- Extra batteries



- Personal hygiene items, glasses, and medication(s)



- Cellphone with charger



- Extra pet supplies

Additional items::

- Copies of important documents kept in a safe place.
- Plan for everyone's needs.
- **Check in with your neighbors!**

TORNADOES

What are common descriptions of a tornado?

- A revolving, funnel-shaped cloud
- A dark, almost greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud
- A loud roar, similar to a freight train

What to do during a Tornado Warning

- In a residence or small building, go to a pre-designated area such as a basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Do not open windows.

If you are not in or near a building

- If you are in a vehicle, put your seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible.
- Consider lying flat in a nearby ditch or low-lying area and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible.
- Do not go under an overpass or bridge, you are safer in a low, flat location.
- Watch for flying debris to avoid injury.

