Thunderstorm Safety Rules

In the interest of public safety, the following safety rules are provided. Feel free to broadcast these safety rules through Social Media while a Severe Thunderstorm Watch is in effect.

**Take Action, Be Prepared!**

- **In open country** ... seek shelter and avoid trees. If there is no shelter, find a ditch, culvert, or low area, but beware of rising water which can cause flooding.

- **When indoors** ... Stay away from outside walls and windows and go to an interior room on the lowest level. Avoid using electrical appliances while the storm is nearby.

- **In mobile homes** ... You should leave and seek nearby safe shelter.

- **If swimming or on a boat** ... you should get to shore as quickly as possible and find shelter.

A thunderstorm is considered severe when it contains **1-inch or larger diameter sized hail** and/or **wind gusts of 58 mph or greater**. Deadly lightning, heavy rain which can lead to flash flooding, and tornadoes are all possible with severe thunderstorms.

A **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** means that conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms – be prepared to take action.

A **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** means that severe thunderstorm is imminent or occurring – take action now!

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Tornado Safety Rules

In the interest of public safety, the following safety rules are provided. Please feel free to broadcast these safety rules through Social Media while the Tornado Watch is in effect.

Take Action, Be Prepared!

- If you live in a mobile home … plan your escape to a nearby sturdy building for shelter.
- In homes, apartments, or other small buildings … Go to the basement or to a small interior room on the lowest floor like a hallway or bathroom closet. Use heavy furniture for shelter or cover yourself with a mattress and/or blanket.
- In schools, hospitals, factories, or shopping centers … Go to designated shelter areas, or interior hallways on the lowest levels. Avoid large rooms, all outside walls and windows.
- If caught in the open with no shelter nearby … find a ditch, culvert, or low area and lay down flat. Cover your head with your hands for protection.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle … Abandon automobiles to the side of the road if a tornado approaches and take shelter in a nearby sturdy building.

A Tornado Watch means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes — be prepared to take action.

A Tornado Warning means that tornado is imminent or occurring — take action now!

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