

Get Ready for Summer Storms

Thunder storms and severe weather often pop up suddenly during the summer months because of the rapid changes in temperature that occur when warm and cold fronts converge. Follow these tips to stay safe when the thunder starts to rumble:

Before the Storm:

- Stay informed—listen to a NOAA weather radio to check local forecasts and news reports regularly. Keep a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio along with extra batteries.
- Buy ground fault protectors for key electrical equipment.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall during strong winds.
- If a thunderstorm is likely in your area, postpone outdoor activities.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors and objects. Secure outdoor objects that could blow away.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers, and turn off air conditioners.

During the Storm:

- Follow the 30 rule: When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles and is dangerous.
- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance for lightning. Seek safe shelter immediately.
- When inside, stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use. Avoid showering or bathing.
- If you are in open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.



After the Storm:

- Even after the storm has passed, there is still a chance for lightning. Postpone all outdoor events for at least 30 minutes from the last rumble of thunder
- Avoid any downed power lines, trees, or other objects that may pose a hazard