

## SEVERE WEATHER TIPS

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash flooding can occur any time of year. The key to severe weather safety is advanced preparation and knowing where to take shelter. The following are tips to help keep you and your family safe:

### **TORNADOES**

1. In homes or small buildings: Avoid windows. Get to the basement (if available) or to a small, interior room on the lowest floor such as a closet or bathroom. Crouch as low as possible to the floor and cover yourself with a mattress or blankets to protect from flying debris.
2. In mobile home or vehicle: Get out! Go to a community shelter or a sturdy permanent building if close. Otherwise lie flat on the lowest ground away from your home or vehicle, protecting your head. Stay away from anything that can blow onto you.
3. In schools, office buildings, shopping malls: Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from windows and large open rooms. Crouch down and cover your head.

### **LIGHTNING**

1. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Seek shelter immediately!
2. At home: Avoid contact with corded phones or any electrical equipment or cords. Avoid contact with plumbing. Stay away from windows, doors, and porches.
3. Near water: Get out of the water; it is a great conductor of electricity.
4. Outside: If you hear thunder, postpone activities immediately and seek shelter. Be the lowest point around you as lightning tends to hit the tallest objects. Stay away from trees and avoid metal objects. Move away from groups of people.

### **FLASH FLOODS**

1. Flash floods kill more people each year than tornadoes and lightning strikes.
2. When inside: If ordered to evacuate or if rising water is threatening, leave immediately and get to higher ground.
3. If outdoors: Go to higher ground immediately. Avoid small rivers or streams. Do not try to walk through flowing water more than ankle deep. Do not allow children to play around streams, drainage ditches, or other flooded areas.
4. If in a vehicle: Do not drive through flooded areas. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.