

SEVERE STORM SAFETY TIPS

BEFORE:

- Protect your home with smoke alarms in the attic and garage, as well as lightning rods if you live in a high-risk area.
- Clean up your property's landscaping. Remove dead trees and overhanging branches.
- Protect your pet's dwelling spaces (if they normally sleep outside) and bring them indoors prior to the storm.
- Review your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy.
- Stay tuned to the NOAA weather radio and obey alerts and warnings.
- Unplug electronic appliances.
- Secure outdoor furniture.

DURING— if outdoors:

- When thunder roars, go indoors!
- A car with a complete metal frame (not a convertible) is a safe sheltering option if you don't touch any metal or electronics connected to the power outlet.
- If you're in a boat or swimming, get to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If no shelter is found, find a low lying area away from tall trees or buildings. Do not make skin-to-ground contact. Do not touch any metal objects.

DURING— if indoors:

- Get to a room near the center of the house away from windows and doors. Do not use a landline phone, nor touch the plumbing fixtures.
- Do not touch water, take a shower, bath, do laundry, or wash dishes.

AFTER:

- If your home is struck by lightning, call the fire department to check for fire. Then, call the electric company to inspect your home's electrical system.
- If someone near you was struck by lightning, call 911 immediately from a cell phone (not a landline phone!)
- Inspect your home for possible damages after the storm passes. Take photos, if necessary, to show the insurance company.
- Stay tuned to the NOAA radio and local news.
- Be prepared for other disasters to follow.