



Severe Weather Preparedness

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Tornadoes

- Pay attention to Tornado Watches and Tornado Warnings.
- Watch for tornado warning signs: dark, green-tinted skies; large hail; big, dark, low-lying clouds and loud roars sounding like a freight train.
- Listen to media outlets for evacuation and shelter instructions.
- Gather family members and pets indoors for tornado preparation.
- Stay away from windows, doors and exterior walls.
- Preferably, seek shelter in a basement, lower level, interior hallway, bathroom or closet.
- Grab your tornado preparedness kit and go over your tornado safety plan.
- If you're caught outside, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area, while covering your head with your hands.
- Never try to outrun a tornado.

Severe Storms

- Be aware of Severe Thunderstorm Watches and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings.
- If after seeing lightning you're not able to count to 30 before hearing thunder, seek shelter indoors for your family and pets.
- Avoid using wired phones, electrical appliances and running water.
- Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.
- If stuck outside, seek shelter inside a vehicle. If you don't have access to the inside of a vehicle, find a low-lying area away from trees, poles and metal objects (including cars). Squat low to the ground.
- Be aware of possible flooding around you.

Flooding

- Pay attention to Flood Watches, Flood Warnings, Flash Flood Watches and Flash Flood Warnings.
- Elevate and waterproof critical utilities and valuables during flood preparation to decrease damages.
- Have an evacuation plan, including routes and places to stay.
- Evacuate before flooding starts.
- Do not try to cross water.
- Water depth is hard to determine and its movement is extremely powerful.
- If trapped, call 911.
- If trapped inside a building, go to the highest level.
- If trapped inside a vehicle surrounded by rapidly moving water, stay inside unless water is rising inside the vehicle.
- If trapped outside, move to high grounds. Climb up on a sturdy object if necessary.
- Return to your home only when authorities say it's safe.

Watches

Conditions are favorable or expected, but not occurring

Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms, capable of producing tornados.

Tornado

Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms with 1" diameter hail and/or 58 mph winds.

Severe Thunderstorm

Warnings

Conditions are occurring or imminent

A severe thunderstorm has developed, and has either produced a tornado, or has a radar signature that is conducive for one to develop.

A severe thunderstorm has developed, capable of producing 1" diameter hail or greater, and/or 58 mph winds or greater.