

Are You Ready for Thunder and Lightning Storms?



Would you know how to protect your family from dangerous thunder and lightning storms? The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural and home disasters. When thunderstorms threaten your area, go inside a home, building or hard top automobile and stay away from metallic objects and fixtures. Everyone should learn the difference between a **severe thunderstorm watch** and a **severe thunderstorm warning**. A severe thunderstorm watch tells when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. A severe thunderstorm warning is issued when severe weather has been reported. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

- ✓ **When thunder roars, go indoors.** Use the 30/30 lightning rule: go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder. Know that every thunderstorm produces lightning. Stay safe.
- ✓ **Have a home storm plan.** If inclement weather develops, seek indoor shelter. Be prepared to seek safety in the lowest room of the home in case a tornado develops from the severe thunderstorm.
- ✓ **Assemble a disaster supplies kit.** Include a first aid kit; essential medicines; canned foods; manual can opener; water (one gallon per person, per day, for at least three days); protective clothing; battery-operated radio; flashlight; extra batteries; and any special needs items.
- ✓ **Listen to weather reports for up-to-date weather information.** Invest in a tone-alert weather radio, or listen to weather reports from local news stations, cable weather stations or radio.