

Weather Safety Tips

from MemphisWeather.net



Every family should have a *disaster supplies kit* for your home and car. It should include: a first aid kit, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio (to stay current on the latest weather warnings), a flashlight, a change of clothes, and written instructions on how to turn off your home's electricity, gas, and water. Supplies should be sufficient to take care of your family for up to 48 hours following an emergency, weather or otherwise.

Know where to go if severe weather strikes at home, at school, or in the car, and above all, be calm and NEVER PANIC.

Thunderstorm and Lightning Tips

Thunderstorms and lightning are very common around Memphis. Not all storms are severe, but all CAN be dangerous!

- ⚡ Always keep a sharp weather eye to the sky! If it looks threatening, it's time to go inside.
- ⚡ If you are stuck outdoors, stay low - don't go on hilltops or be the tallest object in your area.
- ⚡ Stay away from metal objects (metal bats, flagpoles, etc.).
- ⚡ Don't use water (it conducts electricity). Sinks, tubs, and showers can be dangerous in a lightning storm.
- ⚡ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ⚡ Don't use a corded telephone unless there is an emergency and don't use electric appliances, as they conduct electricity.
- ⚡ Don't go under a large tree that stands by itself. Lightning tends to strike the tallest objects.
- ⚡ Stay out of the water (at the beach, in the pool, or on a boat).
- ⚡ If away from home or a building, you can get inside your car and close the windows.



Tornado Tips

Tornadoes are somewhat rare, but DO occur in the Memphis area - remember Feb. 5, 2008? Tornadoes are very dangerous!

- ⚡ If a tornado warning is issued, sirens will sound. Stay inside and well away from windows and doors.
- ⚡ Go to a closet, hallway, or bathroom in the interior of your home, or under a heavy piece of furniture like a table. A bathtub or small closet is a good place to be as long as it is not on an exterior wall. Sit or crouch down - cover your head with your hands.
- ⚡ If you're caught outside, stay low, but be aware of possible flooding.
- ⚡ If you are at school, go to an interior hall and crouch down, covering your head and neck with your hands. Follow teachers' instructions very carefully! Stay out of large rooms (gym, auditorium, or cafeteria).
- ⚡ NEVER try to outrun a tornado in a car. Tornadoes can change direction and speed with little notice.



Flash Flooding Tips

During or after heavy rain, flooding can be just as dangerous as lightning or wind. Be on the lookout for rising water!

- ⚡ During heavy rain, move to high ground and stay away from areas known to flood. Stay out of drainage ditches and creeks!
- ⚡ No one should drive where water covers a road or bridge, or where the road can't be seen due to rushing water. A car can float on a few inches of moving water!

Winter Weather and Cold Weather Tips



Even though we're in the South, we get snow and ice every year. Ice storms, in particular, can cause a lot of problems!

- ⚡ Wear several layers of clothing, plus a hat or ear muffs to cover your ears and mittens or gloves on your hands.
- ⚡ Be prepared for possible power outages by having a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries, or candles (but be very careful with candles!).

In all cases, having a NOAA Weather Radio with battery backup, and knowing how to use it, can save your life!

For local weather information, including the current conditions from the suburbs (not the airport), an up-to-date forecast, weather watches and warnings (even have them delivered to your email address or cell phone!), and StormView radar imagery, visit www.MemphisWeather.net. MemphisWeather.net (MWN) is maintained by a professional meteorologist with over a decade of forecasting experience in the Bluff City and the latest in weather equipment. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly, Erik Proseus, at webmaster@MemphisWeather.net.