

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 and extra batteries, a change of clothes for each person, and written instructions on how to turn off your home's electricity, gas, and water.

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

Thunderstorms and Lightning

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

- ⚡ Always keep a 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, golf clubs, flagpoles, etc.).
- ⚡ Don't use water if possible (it conducts electricity). Sinks, tubs, and showers can be dangerous in a lightning storm.
- ⚡ Stay out of the water outdoors (at the beach, in the pool, or on a boat).
- ⚡ 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.
- ⚡ If away from home or sturdy buildings, get inside your car and close the windows.



Tornadoes

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

- ⚡ If a tornado warning is issued, sirens will sound. DON'T PANIC. Stay inside and 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 and 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. 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 warning.



Flash Flooding

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 with just a foot of moving water!

Winter Weather



Even in the South, snow and ice can and do occur. Ice storms, in particular, can cause a lot of problems!

- ⚡ Wear several layers of clothing, plus a hat or ear muffs to cover your head, mittens or gloves on your hands, and a scarf.
- ⚡ Be prepared for possible power outages by having a battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries, or 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 live weather conditions from the suburbs (Bartlett, not the airport), the current forecast, watches and warnings (even have them delivered to you by email), StormView radar imagery, and much more, visit MemphisWeather.net (MWN). MWN is maintained by a professional meteorologist with well over a decade of experience in the Bluff City, the latest weather equipment, and the knowledge to match. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly, Erik Proseus, at Erik@MemphisWeather.net.