

# At-A-Glance

## Severe Thunderstorm

- Severe thunderstorms may occur individually, in clusters, or in squall lines.
- Most severe storms occur when a single thunderstorm affects one location for an extended time. Severe thunderstorms typically produce heavy rain, strong winds, hail, and, sometimes tornadoes. These storms typically last longer than regular thunderstorms, ranging anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.



### Before a Severe Thunderstorm...

- Build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades or curtains.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.

### During a Severe Thunderstorm...

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are OK to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.

### After a Severe Thunderstorm...

- Never drive through a flooded roadway. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Stay away from storm-damaged areas to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.
- Continue to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

### Did you know?

Thunderstorms often develop rapidly in warm, humid conditions.

For additional information on severe thunderstorms, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



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