

BE READY St. Clair County

For Severe Weather



THUNDERSTORMS produce lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes and hurricanes! Heavy rain from thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding. Some storms bring strong winds, hail, and tornadoes. Downbursts and straight-line winds associated with thunderstorms can produce winds of 100 to 150 miles per hour—enough to flip cars, damage homes, and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.

Local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio are the best sources of information in a tornado situation for official weather and weather-related bulletins.

TORNADOS are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling normally harmless objects through the air like deadly missiles. The most violent tornadoes have rotating winds of 250 miles per hour or more. Pick a safe place **in your home** where family members and pets could gather during a tornado warning. The safest place is underground, or as low to the ground as possible, and away from all windows. If you don't have a basement, consider an interior bathroom, closet, or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as you can between you and the outside.

Advisory

Advisories are informational statements. They are a "head's up" that you may want to take the weather into account when planning your day. Examples are Snow Advisories in the winter; they aren't dangerous, but they may make you change your travel plans.

Watch

Watches are issued when conditions are favorable for a severe weather event. When a Watch is in effect for your area, you should begin preparing for any actions you may need to take should the severe weather event occur.

Warning

Warnings are issued when a severe weather event is occurring or is imminent. If a Warning is issued for your area immediately take action. If it is a Flood Warning, get to higher ground. If it is a Tornado Warning, get to the lowest point in your home.

