Safety Measures during Adverse Weather Conditions

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Weather Watches:

A significant weather event is possible – Plan now and be ready!

When a Watch is issued:

Listen to NOAA All Hazards Radio, local radio and TV stations for further updates. Monitor Internet Sources of weather radar.

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Have a school official monitor the outside weather. Plan what your actions will be if a warning is issued.

A Disaster Supplies Kit should contain the following: first aid kit, three day water supply, food that will not spoil, one blanket per person, any prescription medicine, NOAA All-Hazards Radio, and flashlight with extra batteries.

The National Weather Service issues Weather Watches when conditions are favorable for a hazardous weather or water event. When a watch is issued, review your weather safety plans and monitor your local weather conditions and media broadcasts more closely. Types of weather watches issued by the National Weather Service in Indiana include:

Tornado Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for tornadoes. Tornado Watches are usually 3 to 6 hours in length and are normally issued at least 1 hour prior to the onset of severe weather.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms. Severe thunderstorm watches are normally 3 to 6 hours in length and are usually issued at least 1 hour prior to the onset of severe weather.

Flood Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for flooding or flash flooding. Flood Watches are usually 6 to 12 hours in length and are normally issued 6 to 24 hours before widespread flooding will occur. Another type of Flood Watch issued near the Great Lakes is a Lake Shore Flood Watch.

Winter Storm Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for severe winter weather. Winter Storm Watches are usually 6 to 12 hours in length and are typically issued 6 to 24 hours before a Winter Storm will occur. Other types of Winter Storm Watches include Blizzard Watches and Lake Effect Snow Watches.

High Wind Watch: Issued when conditions for high winds are favorable. High Wind Watches are typically 6 to 12 hours in length and issued 6 to 24 hours before a potentially damaging wind will occur.

Excessive Heat Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for excessive heat. Excessive Heat Watches are normally 6 to 12 hours in length and are usually issued 6 to 24 hours before dangerous Excessive Heat will occur.

Wind Chill Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for dangerous wind chills. Wind Chill Watches are usually 6 to 12 hours in length and are typically issued 6 to 24 hours before dangerous Wind Chills will occur.

Lightning

Lightning Strikes Can Be Deadly!

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Any thunderstorm can produce deadly cloud to ground lightning. Most lightning deaths and injuries occur during the summer months when people are caught outdoors during the afternoon and evening.

The 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule: After seeing lightning, go indoors if you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

In recent years, people have been killed by lightning while boating, swimming, playing outdoor sports, standing under a tree, hiking or mountain climbing, or talking on the telephone. Get indoors and avoid these and similar activities during a thunderstorm.

In Schools: Stay indoors. Stay away from windows and glass. Avoid using land line telephones and electrical appliances and contact with water.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Stay indoors. Stay away from windows and glass. Avoid using land line telephones and electrical appliances and contact with water.

At Organized Sporting Events: Postpone outdoor events if thunderstorms are imminent.

Lightning will strike the tallest object. Crouch low to the ground and move indoors.

Once indoors, stay away from windows and glass. If you see or hear a thunderstorm coming, immediately suspend your game or practice and instruct everyone to go inside a sturdy building or car. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be. Avoid sheds, picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, and bleachers.

Vehicles can be a safe shelter during a lightning storm. The steel frame of the vehicle provides some protection if you are not touching metal.

If no indoor shelter is available, find a low spot away from away from tall objects such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone poles and power lines. Avoid using land line telephones and electrical appliances and contact with water.

In Parks: Lightning will strike the tallest object. Crouch low to the ground and move indoors. Once indoors, stay away from windows and glass.

If you are boating or swimming, get to land immediately and find shelter.

Vehicles can be a safe shelter during a lightning storm. The steel frame of the vehicle provides some protection if you are not touching metal.

If no indoor shelter is available, find a low spot away from away from tall objects such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone poles and power lines. Avoid using land line telephones and electrical appliances and contact with water

In Buses or Vehicles: Vehicles with a hard top (no convertibles) are generally safe from lightning. People inside vehicles can remain there provided windows remain rolled up and occupants do not touch the metal frame of the vehicle.

Tornado Warning

A Tornado Has Been Sighted!!

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Listen to NOAA All Hazards Radio, local radio and TV stations for further updates. Monitor Internet Sources of weather radar.

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A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm cloud and in contact with the ground.

The primary cause of injuries and fatalities from tornadoes is flying debris. Here are things you can do to protect yourself.

In Schools: Follow official school sheltering instructions to protect yourself from glass and flying objects.

Blowing debris or the roaring sound of an approaching tornado may alert you.

Avoid gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with tall, large roofs. Interior hallways on the lowest floor away from glass or exterior doors are safer locations.

Classrooms without windows may be safe shelters also. Crouch low to the ground and cover your head.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Go to a storm shelter to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.

Blowing debris or the roaring sound of an approaching tornado may alert you.

Avoid rooms with windows.

Basements, interior closets, or bathrooms on the lowest floor and away from glass are safer locations. Crouch low to the ground and cover your head.

At Organized Sporting Events: Go to a storm shelter to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.

A basement of a nearby sturdy building can be a safe location.

If no building or storm shelter is available, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area away from trees, fences and poles. Cover your head.

Listen for tornado sirens. Blowing debris or the roaring sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say tornadoes sound like a freight train.

In Parks: Go to a storm shelter to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.

A basement of a nearby sturdy building can be a safe location.

If no building or storm shelter is available, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area away from trees, fences and poles. If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees. Cover your head.

Listen for tornado sirens. Blowing debris or the roaring sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say tornadoes sound like a freight train.

Excessive Heat

Excessive Heat Warning - Extreme Heat Imminent

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Listen to NOAA All Hazards Radio, local radio and TV stations for further updates. Monitor Internet Sources of weather radar.

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The National Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Warning when the heat index is expected to be 115 degrees Fahrenheit for 3 hours or more and the overnight low temperature was near 80 degree Fahrenheit or higher. When the heat index reaches the above levels, exposure can result in heat exhaustion, dehydration, and possibly death.

In Schools: Stay indoors in an air conditioned location as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sunshine.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Stay indoors in an air conditioned location as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sunshine.

At Organized Sporting Events:
Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

In Parks: Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Try to go to a public building with air conditioning each day for several hours.

Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy.

Do not leave children unattended in a vehicle.

Drink plenty of water, regularly and often. Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty. Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies. Avoid drinks with caffeine. Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein, which increase metabolic heat.

Flash Flood

Flash Flood Warning - Flash Flooding Imminent

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Listen to NOAA All Hazards Radio, local radio and TV stations for further updates. Monitor Internet Sources of weather radar.

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A Flash Flood is a rapid rise of water along a stream or low-lying urban area.

In Schools: Stay Indoors and avoid travel if possible.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If you must travel, do not drive into areas where water covers the road.

If water is flowing across a road, use an alternate route.

Keep children away from floodwaters.

If high water threatens your building, evacuate your building and move to higher ground.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Stay indoors and avoid travel if possible.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If you must travel, do not drive into areas where water covers the road.

If water is flowing across a road, use an alternate route.

Keep children away from floodwaters.

If high water threatens your building, evacuate your building and move to higher ground.

At Organized Sporting Events: Stay indoors and avoid travel if possible, as your event may be cancelled.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If you must travel, do not drive into areas where water covers the road.

If water is flowing across a road, use an alternate route.

Abandon vehicles in rising floodwaters and seek higher ground.

Keep children away from floodwaters.

If high water threatens your area or exit route, evacuate the area.

If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around, and go another way.

In Parks: Do not camp or park next to streams, rivers or other areas subject to flooding.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If you must travel, do not drive into areas where water covers or is flowing across a road use an alternate route.

Abandon vehicles in rising floodwaters and seek higher ground.

Stay away from floodwaters.

If high water threatens your area or exit route, evacuate the area.

If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around, and go another way.

High Wind

High Wind Warning - High Winds Imminent

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A High Wind Warning is issued by the National Weather Service when sustained winds in excess of 40 mph for one hour or longer are expected or any wind or gust greater than 58 mph is expected.

In Schools: Stay indoors.
Secure outdoor items that may be easily blown away.

Avoid gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with tall, large roofs. Avoid rooms with windows.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Stay indoors.

Secure outdoor items that may be easily blown away.

Avoid gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with tall, large roofs. Avoid rooms with windows.

At Organized Sporting Events: Go indoors as your event may be canceled.

If caught outdoors go to a storm shelter to protect yourself.

A nearby sturdy building can be a safe location.

Secure outdoor items that may be easily blown away.

In Parks: Go indoors to a storm shelter.

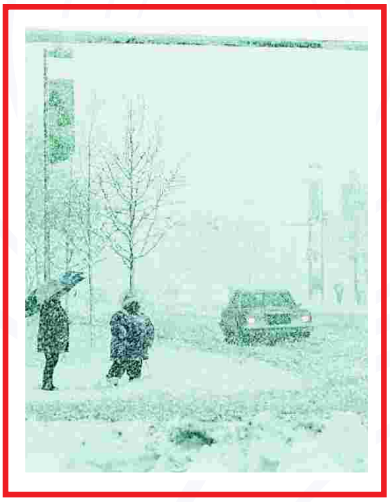
A nearby sturdy building can be a safe location.

If no building or storm shelter is available and you must stay outdoors, stay in a low-lying area, away from trees, fences and poles.

Secure outdoor items that may be easily blown away.

Winter Storm

Winter Storm Warning - Severe Winter Weather Imminent



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A Winter Storm can be caused by any of the following:

Blizzard - Sustained winds or frequent gust to 35 mph or greater for more than 3 hours and considerable falling or drifting snow frequently reducing visibilities to less than 1/2 of a mile

Heavy Snow - 6 inches of snow accumulation in a 12 hour period or 8 inches within a 24 hour period.

Freezing Rain/Ice Storm - Ice accumulation a 1/2 inch or greater

Sleet - Accumulation of a 1/2 inch or greater

Mixed Precipitation - Any of the above hazards in combination with one another meet or exceed warning or advisory criteria.

In Schools: Stay indoors.

If you must go outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing, and cover all exposed skin to protect from wind chill.

Walk carefully on any snowy, icy sidewalks. Avoid driving. Eat regularly.

If your heat source is lost, conserve fuel and heat by closing off unused rooms, and stuffing towels or rags in cracks under doors.

In Child Care Centers and Preschools: Stay indoors.

If you must go outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing, and cover all exposed skin to protect from wind chill.

Walk carefully on any snowy, icy sidewalks. Avoid driving. Eat regularly.

If your heat source is lost, conserve fuel and heat by closing off unused rooms, and stuffing towels or rags in cracks under doors.

At Organized Sporting Events: Stay indoors, as your event may be canceled. Walk carefully on any snowy, icy surfaces. Avoid driving.

In Parks: Go indoors.

If you cannot go indoors, stay dry, and cover all exposed body parts.

Build a lean-to, windbreak or snow cave to protect yourself from the wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.

Exercise from time to time to keep blood flowing and to keep warm. Melt snow for drinking water. Walk carefully on any snowy, icy surfaces. Eat regularly.