

TIPS FOR WEATHERING SEVERE WEATHER

Tornado

Tornado Region

Tornadoes can happen in any state. They're most common in the South, Southwest, West and Midwest.

Tornado Season

Peak months are March through August, but can occur any month. Most common times are 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tornado Watch

Notice from the National Weather Service that conditions indicate a tornado may develop.

Tornado Warning

Notice from the National Weather Service that a tornado has been

sighted or will occur soon. Seek shelter immediately.

Best Shelters

- Basements and storm shelters.
- STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.
- If no basement, move to small rooms, such as closets or bathrooms, in the center of the building.
- In open country, lie face down in a low area AND COVER YOUR HEAD.
- In a car: STOP! Get out. Lie flat in a low area.

Tornado Don'ts

- Don't open windows. And stay away from windows.

- Don't try to outrun a tornado in a car.

Signals of a Possible Tornado

These include a dark, often greenish sky, wall clouds and large hail. These can be accompanied by a loud roar similar to a freight train.

Major Cause of Tornado

Deaths and Injuries

Flying debris. An average of 80 deaths and 1,500 tornado injuries occur each year.

Power Kit Essentials:

Portable Radio, Working Flashlights and Extra Batteries, Portable Cell Phone Charger

Hurricane



Hurricane Region

States along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and Hawaii. People living there should learn safe routes inland and shelter locations.

Hurricane Season

June through November.

Hurricane Watch

Notice from the National Weather Service that conditions indicate a hurricane may develop in the next 24 to 36 hours. Prepare to take immediate action to protect family and property.

Hurricane Warning

Notice from the National Weather Service that a hurricane is expected in 24 hours or less. Complete storm preparations and follow local officials' directions.

In Case of a Hurricane Watch

- Have your emergency power kit close by in case of a power outage.
- Protect windows with shutters, boards or tape.
- Clear rain gutters and downspouts.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Turn refrigerators to the coldest setting to preserve food in case of electrical outage.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Close doors.
- Fill bathtub with water in case drinking water becomes contaminated.
- Keep your car fueled.
- Review family evacuation plan.
- Bring pets indoors.
- Bring outdoor objects inside the house or garage.
- If in the home during the storm, lie on the floor under a sturdy object.
- Don't be fooled by a lull in the storm as the "eye" passes over.

After the Storm

- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- Be alert for tornadoes often spawned by hurricanes.
- Report fallen power lines.
- Inspect your home's water, gas and electrical lines for damage.
- Inspect your food supply.
- Encourage your children to talk about the disaster.

Major Causes of Hurricane Deaths

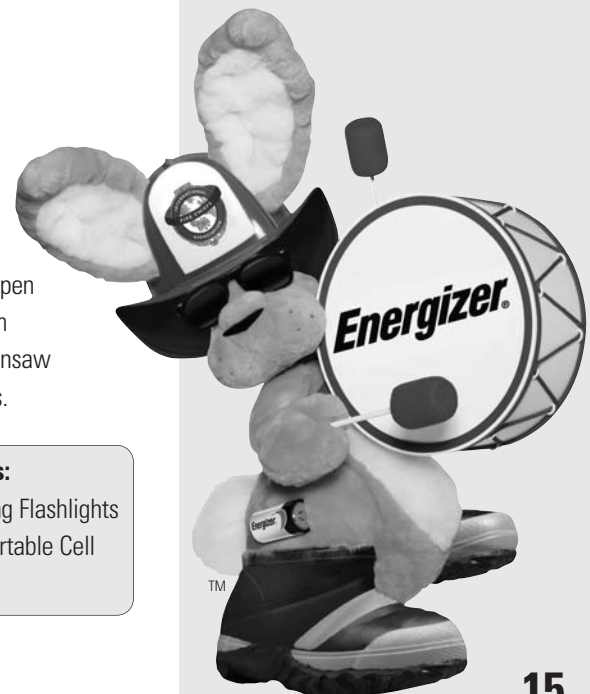
- Drowning causes most hurricane deaths.
- Related deaths happen after the storm from electrocutions, chainsaw and other accidents.

Power Kit Essentials:

Portable Radio, Working Flashlights and Extra Batteries, Portable Cell Phone Charger

Severe Weather

Peak months for hurricanes are June through November.



Severe Weather

Lightning causes an average of 93 deaths and 300 injuries each year.

TIPS FOR WEATHERING SEVERE WEATHER Lightning/Thunderstorm



Lightning Region
Anywhere.

Lightning Season

Anytime. Peak months are May through August, in afternoon or evening.

Thunderstorm Watch

Notice from the National Weather Service that severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.

Thunderstorm Warning

Notice from the National Weather Service that severe thunderstorms are taking place or will take place soon.

Before and During a Thunderstorm

- Have your emergency power kit close by in case of a power outage.

- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Seek shelter.
- Unplug appliances, including air conditioners.
- Don't use the phone or any electrical appliances except for emergencies.

If You Are Caught Outdoors

- Do not take refuge in a shed—metal or wood.
- Move to a sturdy building. If you can't, run to a hard-top car and roll up the windows.
- Do not stand on a hilltop. Avoid being the tallest object.
- Stay away from isolated trees, metal pipes, rails, metal fences, wire clotheslines and water—inside or out.
- Do not use metal sporting equipment such as golf clubs, golf shoes, tennis rackets or bicycles. Stay off tractors and mowers.
- If you're with a group, spread out. Keep several yards apart.

If Your Skin Tingles or Hair Stands on End

You are in immediate danger. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself as small a target as possible. Minimize contact with the ground.

Power Kit Essentials:

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Sources: FEMA, NOAA

