

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A THUNDERSTORM THREATENS

## Prepare NOW

Know your area's risk of thunderstorms. They can occur year-round and at any hour.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Identify sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.

Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.

Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.

Secure outside furniture.

## Survive DURING

When thunder roars, go indoors. A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.

When you receive a thunderstorm warning or hear thunder, go inside immediately.

If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones. Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.

Protect your property. Unplug appliances and other electric devices.

If boating or swimming, get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter or vehicle immediately.

If necessary, take shelter in a car with a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.

Avoid flooded roadways. Turn Around

Don't Drown<sup>®</sup>. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

## Be Safe AFTER

Listen to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.

Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.

### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) and search for thunderstorm, lightning, or hail. Download the FEMA app to get more information about preparing for thunderstorm, lightning, or hail.