

# PREPARE AND PROTECT

As spring approaches, all Hoosiers should be ready for dangerous thunderstorms, lightning, hail, tornadoes and flooding. Here are important terms to understand, safety measures to remember and other facts to know about severe weather ...



## THUNDERSTORMS

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ⚡ Lightning can be **5 TIMES** hotter than the surface of the sun.
- ⚡ **25 MILLION** cloud-to-ground strikes occur in the U.S. each year.
- ⚡ **10%** of lightning strike victims die; **70%** of survivors suffer long-term effects.

### WHAT IT MEANS

**SEVERE STORM:** A storm is severe if it spawns a tornado, hail 1 inch or more in diameter, or winds of 58 mph or more.

**WATCH:** Hazardous weather may occur. Watch for info; review emergency plans.

**WARNING:** Hazard is imminent and requires immediate action.

### HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Take shelter inside a building with wiring or plumbing.
- Inside a hard-topped vehicle is safer than outside, but avoid contact with metal or outside parts of the vehicle.
- If you can't get to a shelter, stay away from trees or open areas where you may be the tallest object.
- Avoid metal, including bicycles, motorcycles, golf clubs, etc.
- Get out of the water and don't stand in puddles, even with rubber boots on.
- Avoid crowds of people.



## TORNADOES

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 🌀 Indiana saw **17 TORNADOES** in 2020; the annual average is 22.
- 🌀 Most tornadoes travel **NORTHEAST** at speeds near 30 mph.
- 🌀 Tornadoes are most likely to occur from **APRIL TO JUNE**.

### WHAT IT MEANS

**TORNADO:** A violently rotating column of air touching the ground, usually attached to the base of a thunderstorm.

**WATCH:** Conditions are conducive for the formation of tornadoes.

**WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.

### HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Go to the basement or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom.
- Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself.
- Stay away from glass and very large rooms.
- Most tornado deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you have time, leave them for a substantial structure or designated shelter. As last resort, lie flat in your car or nearby ditch and use your hands to cover your head.



## FLOODS

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 🌊 Average annual U.S. flood losses from 1996-2014 were more than **\$8.8 BILLION**.
- 🌊 The most destructive flood in Indiana was in **JUNE 2008**. Damage exceeded \$1 billion.

### WHAT IT MEANS

**WATCH:** Conditions are favorable for flooding or flash flooding.

**WARNING:** Issued for river floods or for widespread flooding.

**FLASH FLOOD WARNING:** Rapid flooding is imminent. Flash floods develop within six hours of a heavy rainfall.

### HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Get to higher ground, away from areas subject to flooding.
- Avoid areas already flooded and do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- Do not drive around barriers that are blocking flooded roadways.
- Never drive through flooded roadways; roads may be washed out under flood waters.
- If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not camp near streams or washes.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK AND HOW TO BE WEATHER READY OR CHECK YOUR LOCAL FORECAST AND ALERTS AT [WEATHER.GOV/IND](https://www.weather.gov/ind).

## BEWARE OF THE HEAT

Heat waves are often overlooked as severe weather but can be just as dangerous and deadly to Hoosiers.

To keep yourself safe, follow these simple precautions:

- Drink plenty of water.

- Wear light clothing, a hat and sunglasses.
- Eat light meals.

- Do not overexert yourself.
- Stay out of the sun when possible.



## MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Here is what should be included in your emergency kit:

- Food and water for 3 days (3 gallons of water per person)
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool

- Personal hygiene items
- Extra cash

- Copies of personal documents

- Emergency blanket
- Baby and pet supplies



## SEND A REPORT



You can tweet @NWSIndianapolis or comment on the Facebook page with what type of precipitation is falling, how much snow you've measured, if there's any ice accumulation, or if you measure any strong wind gusts. You can also send pictures or video. Don't forget to include your location and the time.

**DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY TO CAPTURE PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF SEVERE WEATHER.**