

Summer storm safety: What to do before, during, and after a storm.



Summer storms can roll in fast, bringing lightning, high winds, and flash flooding. Being prepared is key. These summer storm safety tips can help you stay ready and protected before, during, and after severe weather hits. Knowing them could make all the difference in keeping your loved ones and property protected.

Summer storm safety: Before a storm

- Monitor the conditions closely. Don't wait until the last minute to plan for bad weather.
- Charge your phone and other emergency devices.
- Locate flashlights, a radio, batteries, water, and snacks.
- Secure objects that could be kicked up in high winds, like outdoor furniture, pillows, backyard toys, and grills.
- Check in with your loved ones if they're away from the house to ensure they have a plan, too.

Summer storm safety: During a storm

- Get out and away from pools and bodies of water.
- Do not shelter by or under tall objects. Lightning tends to strike high places.
- If you're driving during a storm, pull over safely and stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on. Avoid touching metal surfaces. Do not park under trees or power lines.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, like wires and fences.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Avoid taking a shower or using devices that are plugged in.
- Stay indoors, ideally in an interior room without windows.

Summer storm safety: After a storm hits

- Stay indoors until you're sure the storm has passed.
- Watch for downed power lines and report them. Never touch or approach a downed line.
- Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas, even if the water seems shallow.
- Inspect your property for damage when it's safe to do so.
- Take photos of any damage that occurred.
- Report any outages or damage to your local utility company or emergency services.
- Check on neighbors, especially older adults or those who may need help.

Summer storm safety: Year-round tips

- Keep an emergency kit stocked and easy to access.
- Trim trees and remove dead branches near your home that could cause additional damage during a summer storm.
- Teach children storm safety basics. This will help them know how to respond whether they're at home, outdoors, or away from the house.
- Sign up for local weather alerts on your phone or through emergency alert systems.
- Review your insurance coverage for storm-related damage.

Summer storm safety starts with being proactive. By taking steps to prepare in advance and knowing how to act during and after a storm, you can reduce your risk and keep your family safe. Storms can be unpredictable — but your safety plan shouldn't be. Talk to a local, independent agent for more protection today.

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