

Summertime:

A Time to be Aware of Weather-related Dangers

Summer is generally a time when we look forward to spending more time outdoors. Whether it's in the woods, touring the city on bike or relaxing in the sand at the beach – being outside is great for our mood. The last thing we want to think about is severe weather ruining our plans. Always monitor weather forecasts and be prepared to take action to keep safe while outdoors this summer. Below are summer weather threats to be aware of:

Thunderstorms: Can produce strong winds, dust storms, hail, lightening and flash flooding when rainfall is heavy. Lightening can strike 10-15 miles away from a thunderstorm, even when skies appear clear. Head indoors if you hear thunder and get out of the water if you are at a pool or the beach. If driving, pull over when visibility is poor.

Tornadoes: Can emerge in severe storms, producing catastrophic winds and flying debris. Pay attention to severe weather alerts and seek shelter in an interior room, away from windows, on the lowest floor, and cover your head. Review a safety plan with your family each season if you live in tornado-prone areas, but do note that a tornado can happen anywhere.

Tropical Storms and Hurricanes: Can produce heavy rain, flooding, and storm surge and rip currents along coastal areas. Monitor forecasts and prepare a safety plan, including protecting your home and documents. Listen to local authorities and follow evacuation orders. Leave sooner, rather than later, to avoid traffic and gas lines. Do not drive through flood waters.

Wildfires: Can be started by lightning or by humans. Practice safe camping by staying near your campfire and extinguish the fire fully when you will not be tending it. Do not start a fire on very dry or windy days as it can be difficult to contain. If you do encounter a wildfire, drive or walk away from smoke and flames immediately. Call 911 to report the fire. If told to evacuate, follow the evacuation route and contact loved ones once you reach safety.

Make a habit of always checking the forecast before heading out. Remember, it is better to delay a plan and be safe than to be caught in a dangerous situation outdoors.