



Thunderstorms and Lightning

All thunderstorms are dangerous because every thunderstorm produces lightning. Lightning can kill or seriously hurt people. Thunderstorms are also dangerous because they can lead to flash floods.

Be Prepared

BEFORE:

- Build an emergency kit
- Make a family communications plan
- Go indoors if you see lightning or hear thunder

DURING:

- Stay inside
- Don't use items that plug into electrical outlets. Power surges from lightning can come through the cords and hurt you.
- Don't wash your hands, take a bath or take a shower. Faucets can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors
- Don't lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls, because they can conduct electricity
- Don't touch anything metal outdoors - bikes, fences, playground equipment
- Stay away from open fields, hills, and the beach
- Don't stand near "lightning rods" like tall trees or flag poles

AFTER:

- Stay away from loose or dangling power lines
- Stay away from areas damaged by the storm or flood waters

from FEMA Ready.gov/kids