




SEVERE SUMMER WEATHER

How to Stay Safe in Thunderstorms

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!



STOP All Activities

Immediately seek shelter in a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. Wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder to resume activities.



Take appropriate shelter when you can count 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder.

Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.

Be Weather Aware!

Don't get caught outdoors when thunderstorms threaten.

Remember, severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes.

Be Weather Aware!

When planning your daily activities its important to be prepared for severe weather. Summer weather has a tendency to be more volatile than other seasons. It can be less predictable, with less lead time for preparedness. Its always a better idea to plan ahead.

Tips on Preparing for Severe Weather

1. **Don't wait for a storm to hit.** Begin preparing now and you'll be able to react quickly when a storm arrives. Make sure your Home Emergency Survival Kit is stocked, ready, and in a place where you can easily access it.
2. **Pay close attention to the weather.** Some types of nasty summer weather can develop quickly with little warning, so be sure to regularly check the forecast on trusted sources including radio, smartphone apps, or the internet.
3. **Respect the potentially destructive power of weather.** When severe weather is forecast, keep a close eye on the sky and be prepared to take cover if threatening weather approaches. Stay inside until conditions have calmed and the danger has passed. This is no time for recreational weather watching or taking photos or video to post on social media.
4. **Remember that after-storm conditions can also pose a hazard.** After a severe storm has passed used special care when you leave your shelter. There may be downed electrical wires, broken trees and dangerous debris around your property and in the streets. Be extremely cautious if you decide to tackle tree removal by yourself. Better yet, leave it to the professionals.

Severe Thunderstorm

A **Watch** is issued when conditions are likely for the development of thunderstorms, some of which may become severe with large hail, heavy rain, deadly lightning or damaging winds and possibly tornadoes within the areas and times specified in the watch. You should use this time to secure loose objects, shelter animals, ensure family members or co-workers are prepared to take action and listen carefully for an updated weather report. This is the time to develop a plan.

A **Warning** is issued when a severe storm has developed producing one or more of the following conditions: flooding rain, destructive winds with gusts greater than 90 km/h, hail of at least 20 mm in diameter (the size of a nickel) or intense lightning. Severe thunderstorms may also produce tornadoes. The storm's expected motion and developments will be given in the warning. If you are in the area specified, be prepared to take shelter.



Tornado

Tornadoes are rotating columns of high-velocity wind that can bring devastation to anything in their path. Ontario averages 12 tornadoes per year, most occurring in June, July and August, although the season extends from April to September.

When a Tornado Threatens

- Take shelter immediately, away from doors, windows or exterior walls. The basement of a sturdy building is best.
- Don't get caught in a vehicle or mobile home. If no other shelter is available then lie flat in a ditch, ravine or low-lying area.
- Beware of flying debris. Even small objects such as sticks and straw can become lethal missiles.



SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

A Special Weather Statement means actual or expected weather conditions may cause general inconvenience or concern, but do not pose a serious threat to warrant a weather warning.



For more information on being Prepared:

Contact:

cemc@huroncounty.ca
call 519-524-8394 ext. 3306

Tornado Watch vs Warning

A **Tornado Watch** is issued when severe thunderstorms have developed and there is the possibility of one or more tornadoes developing within the areas and times specified in the watch.

A **Tornado Warning** is issued when one or more tornadoes are occurring in the area specified or detected on Doppler Radar. The expected motion, development and duration of the tornado will be given in the warning. You should take immediate action to get to a safe location.