



# Protect Yourself Before, During, and After a Storm

*Below are a few steps you can take to help prepare you and your family for the upcoming storm season.*

*For additional tips and information, see the links below.*

## Before The Storm

Prepare by gathering emergency supplies, making a family plan, and discussing emergency notifications and expectations with your workplace and/or your children's school.

Install and/or check the batteries on your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Keep a battery powered radio and flashlight in an accessible location. Acquire extra batteries.

If you have access to an outside generator, have an electric cord long enough to keep the generator at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

Make plans for how you can avoid driving in extreme weather.

Prepare your home and your property for the upcoming storm season; clean out gutters, maintain trees, and inspect and/or repair your roof.

[Identify if your home is in a flood zone.](#)

Be alert to changing weather conditions by following local news sources, the [National Weather Service](#), and utilizing a [weather radio](#).

## During the Storm

Stay indoors and avoid driving as much as possible. If driving is necessary, take emergency supplies with you and drive with extra caution.

Do not drive or walk through fast moving water or flooded areas.

If the power goes out, close off unused rooms to consolidate and retain heat.

Bring pets inside.

Stay tuned to local tv or radio stations to keep up to date on the situation and changing conditions.

Never use generators, outdoor cooking equipment, or gasoline or propane heaters indoors.

## After the Storm

If the power is out for more than a few days, community shelters may be set up for those who do not have adequate supplies.

Keep an eye out for storm damage that may cause harm such as broken tree limbs, damaged power lines, etc.

Inspect your home for any damage caused by the storm.

## Storm Preparation Websites

[More Tips from the County Office of Emergency Services](#)



[National Weather Service - Turn Around Don't Drown](#)



[Flood Preparedness](#)



[American Red Cross Power Outage Safety Tips](#)



[Flood Insurance Information](#)