

# SEVERE WEATHER

- Avoid tall structures, such as towers, fences, telephone lines, or power lines.
- Avoid lightning rods, such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, etc.
- If you feel your hair stand on end (which may indicate that lightning is about to strike you), squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

If in a Vehicle:

- Safely pull onto the shoulder of the road away from any trees that could possibly fall on your vehicle; turn on your emergency flashers and stay in your vehicle.

**After a Thunderstorm:**

- Call 911 to report life-threatening emergencies only, not damage or power outages.
- Drive only as necessary. Debris and washed-out roads may make driving dangerous.
- Never drive through a flooded roadway. Turn around, don't drown!
- Help people who may need special assistance, such as infants, children, the elderly, and people with access and functional needs.

## FLOODING

Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. If you live in a low-lying area, near water, downstream from a dam or other areas known to flood, make sure you're prepared to evacuate. Even six inches of swiftly moving water can knock someone off their feet.

**Before a Flood:**

- Know your neighborhood flood history and low-lying areas. Determine if your home and workplace are in a flood plain.
- Talk to your insurance provider to determine if you need flood insurance.
- If you are in a high risk area, elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home.
- Construct barriers to stop floodwaters from entering the building and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.
- When conditions indicate the potential for flooding, get out of low-lying areas.

**During a Flood:**

- Move to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for instructions to leave but if told to evacuate, do so immediately. Always stay away from floodwaters.

*(continued)*

- If you must walk in water, walk where water is not moving; use a stick to check the depth.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas without warning.
- Stay inside away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electric shock or electrocution.
- Turn off utilities, if you are instructed to do so.
- Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

#### If in a Vehicle:

- Stop and take an alternate route. The depth, current and condition of the road are all unknowns and can be deadly.
- If your vehicle stalls on a flooded road and water is rising, get out of the car, call 911 and move to higher ground.
- Two feet of swift water can move or float most vehicles, including SUV's and pickup trucks.
- Be especially cautious during periods of low visibility when it is difficult to see and judge conditions—if windshield wipers are on, state law requires headlights.
- Keep your vehicle parked in your garage or on the driveway away from low-lying areas and large drains.

#### After a Flood:

- Follow the instructions of authorities and obey posted warnings. Stay away from damaged areas unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or a relief organization.
- Wait for officials to determine if the water is safe to drink.
- Throw away water and food that has come into contact with floodwater.
- Check for utility outages. Utilities will have to be turned back on by a professional.
- Consider asking a professional to evaluate your home for mold.
- Use bleach to clean up—it is effective in killing germs, and can also be used to purify water to drink (10-20 drops of plain bleach per gallon of water).

*(continued)*