

SPRING STORM SAFETY AND

Severe weather happens often in Missouri during spring and summer months. Storms with lightning, high winds or tornadoes can strike suddenly and cause dangerous situations. The following tips are designed to help you be safe during severe weather anytime it impacts the Harrisonville area

Missouri's READY IN 3 program provides free family safety guides to help prepare your family and household for an area emergency. The guides are available in several languages. Visit health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyin3/ to obtain a family safety guide online, and for a wide variety of other emergency preparedness information.

WHEN A STORM IS LIKELY

- Listen to radio, television, or NOAA *Weather Radio* for weather reports and emergency information.
- Postpone outdoor activities.

Remember "***If thunder roars, go indoors***". No place outside is safe when lightning is in the area. Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

- Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners.

- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.

- Close windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.

- Long-term preparation:** Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.

DURING A STORM

After getting inside a home or building:

- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.

- Avoid showering or bathing and contact with plumbing during a thunderstorm. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity. Do not wash your hands, wash dishes or do laundry.

- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during a thunderstorm. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use. Use a corded telephone only for emergencies.

- Because concrete conducts electricity, do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.

- Stay indoors until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

If you find yourself outside when a thunderstorm hits, avoid the following:

- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.

- Natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.

- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.

- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.

- Anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

AFTER THE STORM

BE SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

- If you see a downed power line, **don't touch it!** Call 911 or City of Harrisonville Electric Department immediately.

- Be extra cautious when you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or hanging

electrical wires can be hidden by trees or debris, and could be live.