

What to do during Severe storms

Overview

Thunderstorms, hail, blizzards, ice storms, high winds and heavy rain can develop quickly and threaten life and property. Severe storms occur across Alberta in all seasons.

Before a storm

Having an emergency plan in place saves valuable time if severe weather strikes. Take the opportunity now to choose the best shelter in your home or office, and make sure everyone knows where it is. Be sure you have communicated a meeting place to gather after the storm.

- Maintain an emergency kit stocked with supplies such as water, food, battery-powered or crank flashlights, radios and extra batteries.
- Keep extra batteries or a charger for your mobile device in your emergency kit. Consider getting a solar-powered, crank or vehicle phone charger.
- Keep your vehicle fuel tank full, in case fuel stations close down after a storm. When an alert is issued, stay calm and follow your plan.
- Secure everything that might be blown around or torn loose - indoors and outdoors.
- Trim dead branches and cut down dead trees to reduce injuries or damages.
- If you are indoors, close your windows, blinds and curtains.
- Remember to include preparations for pets, animals, children and individuals with special care needs.
- If you are in a car, stop the car away from trees or power lines that might fall on you.
- If you are advised by officials to evacuate, do so.

During a storm

- Go to the basement or to a small interior room in the center of the house, such as a closet, bathroom or hallway, on the lowest floor of the building. If this is not an option, take cover under a stairway or sturdy table and use a cushion or mattress to protect your head.
- Stay away from windows, doors, exterior walls and fireplaces. Avoid buildings with large, unsupported roofs such as arenas, supermarkets and barns.
- You may want to go to the sheltered area that you and your family chose for your emergency plan.
- If you are on the water and you see bad weather approaching, head for shore immediately.

Stay informed

- Download the Alberta Emergency Alert app.
- Keep a battery-powered radio, crank radio or Weatheradio in case of a power outage.
- Contact your municipality's Director of Emergency Management.
- Contact Alberta Emergency Management Agency at 780-422-9000, or dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton.

Be prepared: <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx>

After a storm

- Restore your home to good order as soon as possible to protect your health and prevent further damage to the house and its contents.
- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- Use extreme caution. If you have experienced flooding and the main power switch was not turned off, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it is safe to do so.
- If you suspect structural damage, rely on the professionals to ensure it is safe before re-entering.
- Depending on where you live, your municipal or provincial inspection authority is responsible for permitting before your electric utility can reconnect power to your home.

Evacuation

- Vacate your home in the event of an evacuation order. Ignoring an order could jeopardize the safety of your family or those who might eventually have to come to your rescue.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Follow the routes specified by officials. Do not take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Drive carefully with headlights. Make way for pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Stop at the pre-determined marshaling point(s). Report in to authorities and wait for further instructions. Do not leave again without informing officials.
- Make the necessary arrangements for pets. If you do not already have a pet kit, make sure you bring your pet carrier and a supply of food.
- If time permits, leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave the note in there.