

Thunderstorm Safety

PLANNING – in advance, your own safety and evacuation measures can save your life when a severe storm is imminent. At the first onset of thunder or lightning, seek immediate shelter in a building or vehicle. While a thunderstorm is not always related to lightning strikes, there is a good chance that a storm will occur, so please, do not wait for the storm to begin, seek shelter at the first signs of a storm.

INDOORS – stay away from doors and windows during a lightning storm. If possible, stay off of the telephone. It is also advisable to unplug electronic equipment that is not protected by some type of a surge protection device. Remember, lightning usually will strike buildings and outside power lines; however, shocks have been known to occur on inside equipment.

OUTDOORS – stay away from higher ground and wide open spaces. There are many areas that you should avoid during lightning strikes such as: metal fences, power lines, tents, canopies, picnic shelters and trees. If you cannot find indoor shelter, crouch down, place feet together and cover your ears to minimize hearing loss. Avoid all other people by at least 15 feet.

Disaster Supply Kit

In the event of an emergency, help will be available; however, everyone cannot be reached immediately. It is best that you are prepared to cope with the disaster until help does arrive. These simple items below should be stored in an accessible area of your home and in a easy-to-carry container. Some items that you should include:

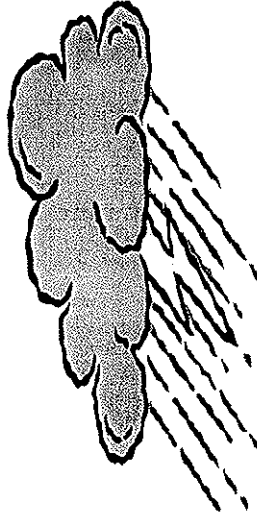
- Water – 1 gallon per person per day
- Food – 3 day supply of non-perishable food per person
- First aid kit
- Tools
- Fire extinguisher
- Flashlight and batteries
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Battery powered radio
- Toilet paper, soap, bleach, disinfectant, personal hygiene, feminine hygiene and plastic garbage bags
- Additional clothing
- Blankets and linens

For a complete list of disaster supplies for tornadoes or other disasters, you can contact the Munster Fire Department's Prevention Bureau or the American Red Cross

or more information, please write to:

Town of Munster
c/o Director of Operations
1005 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321

Severe Weather Safety



April is Tornado Awareness Month

The Tornado

Each year, thousands of tornadoes touch down in the United States. There are only a small percentage that actually strike occupied buildings; however, hundreds of people each year are either seriously injured or killed as the result of a tornado. There is a slim chance that you or the building you are in will ever be struck by a tornado, but in order to greatly reduce your chance of being injured if one should, there are a few simple things that you can do.

It is important that you are AWARE of the onset of inclement weather in your area. The majority of death and serious injury occur when people are not aware or not properly informed. Children, elderly or invalids may have a difficult time recognizing hazards associated with the onset of tornadoes and would not be able to reach sufficient shelter in time. There are also those who ignore the weather due to overconfidence.

It is important that you turn on your local television or radio channels in the event of inclement weather conditions and listen to what they are telling you to do. If you have trouble receiving your local stations, you may want to invest in a "Weather Radio". It is as important to have a weather alert radio in your home as it is to have a smoke detector. If you are AWARE and ALERT, you will be ALIVE!

Early Weather Warning Systems

The Town of Munster has installed an early weather warning system. There are a total of 5 sirens installed that will be activated when there is severe weather conditions. If the sirens are activated for severe weather, take shelter immediately and tune into WGN radio 720, WBBM News radio 780 or CBS 2, NBC 5, ABC 7, WGN 9, Fox 32 or CLTV News. **DO NOT CALL 911 TO FIND OUT DETAILS.**

The *early weather warning system* will be tested every Saturday at noon. The sirens will be activated for one minute for testing. If there is an actual warning or emergency, the siren will be activated for three minutes.

A *lightning prediction warning system* has also been installed in parks throughout the town. There will be signs throughout these parks with guidelines, so please take the time to read the guidelines so you are aware of how the system works.

The *lightning prediction system* will sound a warning horn (15 second blast) when a potentially dangerous weather situation is approaching. If you hear the alarm, clear the park immediately and seek proper shelter. All activities must cease once you hear the horn. The horn will sound three blasts for the all clear.

The *lightning prediction system* will be operational from April 1 – November 31. The system will be tested the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Are You Ready For a Tornado?

HOME TORNADO PLANNING – Decide on a gathering place that your family can meet in the event of a tornado. It is best that you seek shelter in the basement or lowest level of your home. Never take cover by windows. If you do not have a basement, seek shelter in a center hallway, bathroom or closet. If you live in a multi-story building, head for the center hallway of the floor you are on. **STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS!**

TORNADO WATCH-

A tornado watch means that a tornado is possible in your area. Stay tuned to local radio or television stations for updates. Be prepared to seek cover if the need arises. Be alert to any changes in weather conditions.

TORNADO WARNING-

A tornado warning means a tornado has been spotted and you should seek immediate shelter. If you are in a vehicle, get out and head for a building. Remember, a basement is best, but a hallway, door frame, sturdy table or closet will work. **STAY AWARE AND STAY ALERT AND YOU WILL STAY ALIVE!**