Fall Weather Safety

Wildfire – Drought – Hurricanes – Wind – Early Season Winter – Flood

Wildfire Safety

Preventing wildfires…

- Wildfires are most often started by lightning or humans.
- When camping, stay with your fire when lit, and make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving.
- Be smart and safe when burning debris. Keep the fire small and don’t burn on windy days.
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking materials.

weather.gov/wildfire

Wildfire Safety

Before a Wildfire

- Know where you can find temporary housing for your family and pets in case you must evacuate.
- Plan a primary evacuation route and identify a secondary route in case the first is blocked.
- Select building materials and plants that are fire resistant.
- Create a family emergency plan and make a list of items you'll need to pack for evacuation.

weather.gov/wildfire

Wildfire Safety

If Told to Evacuate:

- Follow instructions from local officials.
- Don’t deviate from the identified evacuation route. Other roads may be blocked.
- If you have time to gather belongings, do so quickly. If you do not have time, leave and head for safety immediately.
- Contact your family and let them know you are okay.

weather.gov/wildfire

Wildfire Safety

If you encounter a wildfire

- Drive or walk away from the smoke and flames immediately.
- Do not stop to watch or take pictures.
- Call 911.

weather.gov/wildfire

Wildfire Smoke Safety

When smoke is impacting your area:

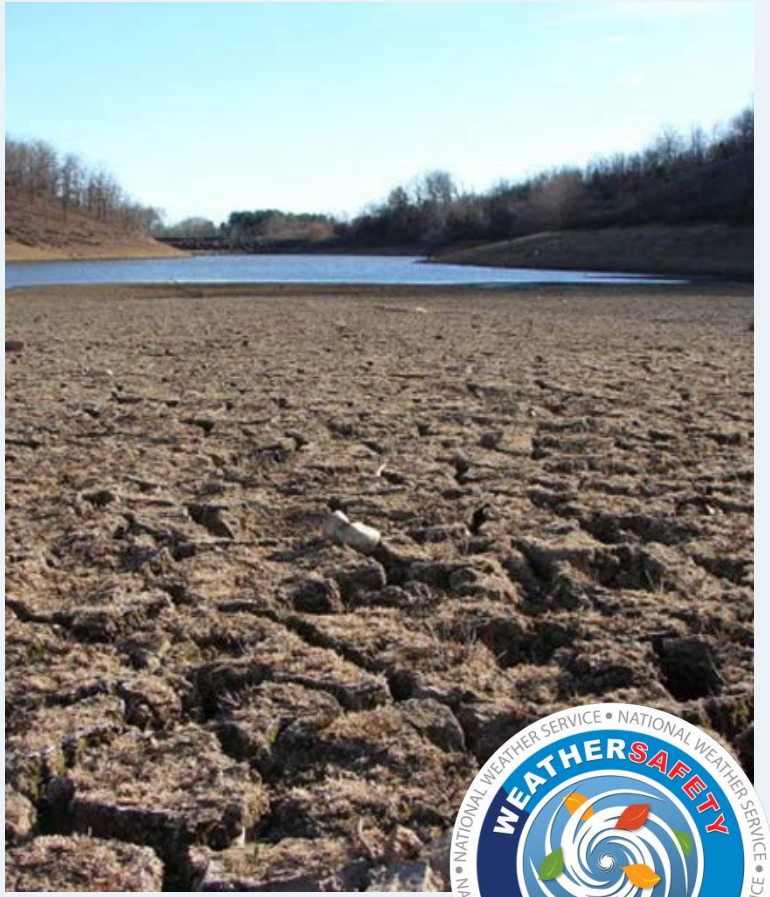
- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Keep air conditioner intakes closed and the filter clean.
- Seek shelter elsewhere if it's too warm to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Don't add to indoor pollution by burning candles or smoking.
- Follow evacuation orders.

weather.gov/wildfire

Drought Safety

When water is scarce, do this outside:

- Water your lawn less frequently. If you must water your lawn, do so in the early morning/late evening.
- Mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Fix leaky sprinklers and adjust them so they only water your lawn (not the house or sidewalk).
- Don't wash your car unless absolutely necessary.



weather.gov/drought

Drought Safety

When water is scarce, do this inside:

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and shave.
- Install low flow showerheads.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Only wash full loads of laundry.
- Use excess clean water for plants.

weather.gov/drought

Hurricane Safety

Preparing Your Family for a Hurricane

- Know if you live in a hurricane storm surge evacuation area.
- Know your home's vulnerability to flooding, wind, and storm surge.
- Understand NWS warnings and watches.
- Put together an emergency supply kit. (Don't forget supplies for your pet.)
- Create a family emergency plan.

weather.gov/
hurricanesafety

Preparing Your Home for a Hurricane

- Remove all lawn furniture & items that will blow around.
- Board up your windows with plywood or approved shutters.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Get cash
- Reinforce your garage door.
- Secure your boat.

FEMA

weather.gov/
hurricanesafety

Before Evacuating for a Hurricane

- Have an evacuation plan that includes where you will go and what to pack.
- If you have a pet, identify shelters where they are accepted.
- Listen to evacuation orders, be prepared, and evacuate early. Don't wait until the last minute.
- If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water. Unplug your appliances.

weather.gov/
hurricanesafety

When Evacuating for a Hurricane

- Take only what you need. Be sure to remember your medications and identification!
- Follow roads emergency workers are recommending, even if there is traffic. Other routes may be blocked. Drive carefully.
- Contact your family.

weather.gov/
hurricanesafety

Wind Safety

Wind Warnings, Watches and Advisories

- Take Action: A ***High Wind Warning*** is issued when damaging or life threatening winds are occurring or will occur soon.
- Be Prepared: A ***High Wind Watch*** is issued when it's possible for damaging or life threatening winds to occur.
- A ***High Wind Advisory*** is issued when winds are strong enough to cause difficulty for those outside but likely won't cause widespread damage.

weather.gov/wind

Wind Safety

Straight Line Winds

- Straight line winds are strong damaging winds that have no rotation.
- Typically associated with severe thunderstorms and squall lines.
- Wind speeds can reach up to 125mph and create large damage paths equal to that of a tornado.

weather.gov/wind

Wind Safety

Wind from Powerful Storm Systems

- Created by a strong pressure gradient.
- Can knock down trees and power lines, and blow over trailers and trucks.
- Makes driving hazardous. Keep two hands on the wheel and avoid large vehicles such as semi-trucks.

weather.gov/wind

Wind Safety

Dust Storms

- Dust storms are caused by wind blowing over a dry region.
- Blowing dust can reduce visibility to nearly zero.
- Dust storms can last mere minutes or up to an hour.
- Seek shelter in the event of a dust storm.
- If driving, pull over as soon as possible, turn off your lights and keep your seatbelt buckled.

weather.gov/wind

Wind Safety

What to do when a High Wind Warning is issued…

If at home:

- Seek shelter inside, away from windows.

If outside:

- Seek shelter immediately.
- If you cannot find shelter, avoid trees, power lines, and objects that could blow around. Stay away from the side of the road.

weather.gov/wind

Wind Safety

What to Do When Driving:

- Slow down!
- Keep two hands on the wheel.
- Stay away from trucks, buses, and vehicles towing trailers.
- Watch for flying debris and downed power lines and branches.

weather.gov/wind

Freezing Rain/Sleet

- Make sure your trees are trimmed and away from power lines.
- Have an emergency kit in case the power goes out.
- Avoid driving. If you must drive, drive slowly and give extra space to the cars in front of you.
- The NWS will issue a Freezing Rain/Sleet Advisory or an Ice Storm Warning.

weather.gov/winter

Winter Weather Safety

Be Prepared for Early Season Winter Storms

- Winterize your car with snow tires and a winter driving safety kit.
- Restock your emergency kit with extra batteries, enough food etc.
- If you have a generator, make sure it is in working order and review safety. NEVER run a generator in an enclosed space such as a garage.

weather.gov/winter
ready.gov/kit

Flood Safety

Before a Flood

- Learn whether your home, school or place of work is at risk of flooding.
- Find alternate routes to important locations.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Follow evacuation orders.
- Keep an eye on the forecast by visiting weather.gov.

weather.gov/flood

Flood Safety

During a Flood

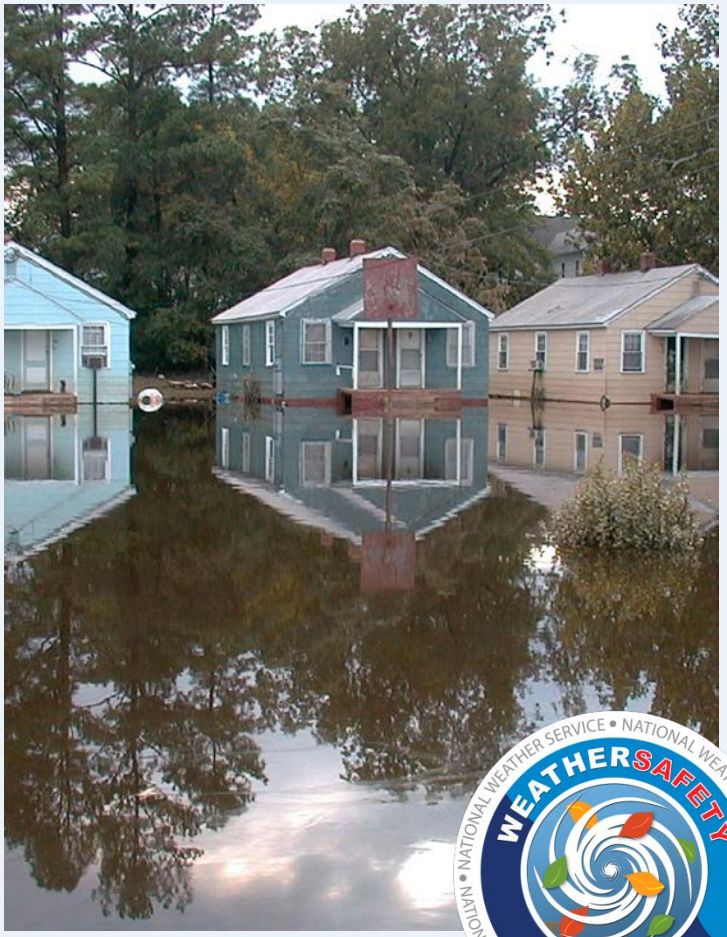
- Never drive or walk into flood waters.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Get to higher ground.
- Get information from local TV/radio or your mobile phone.

weather.gov/flood

Flood Safety

After a Flood

- Avoid damaged areas and flood waters.
- Heed road closed and other cautionary signs.
- Wait for the “all clear” to enter a flood damaged structure.
- Contact your loved ones via text or social media to keep phone lines clear.



weather.gov/flood

Flood Safety

Turn Around Don't Drown®

- It is never safe to walk or drive through floodwaters.
- It only takes six inches of swift moving water to knock an adult off their feet and sweep them away.
- 12 inches of water will lift most small cars.
- Two feet of water will lift most large vehicles.

weather.gov/flood