



## **ABOUT** **THUNDERSTORMS**

Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that can produce powerful winds, create lightning and hail, and cause flash flooding and tornadoes.

The National Weather Service (NWS) defines a severe thunderstorm as a storm capable of producing hail an inch or larger in diameter or wind gusts over 58 mph. On average, the number of thunderstorm days per year in Wisconsin ranges from 30 to 40 according to the NWS.

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when severe thunderstorms are possible in or near your area.

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued after severe thunderstorms were reported by spotters or indicated on radar.



ReadyWisconsin is a campaign of Wisconsin Emergency Management, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs. ReadyWisconsin seeks to educate and empower people to prepare for and respond to disasters.

## **LEARN MORE**

[readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov)  
[weather.gov/safety/](http://weather.gov/safety/)

# **THUNDERSTORM SAFETY**





## **BEFORE A THUNDERSTORM**

- Make sure your smartphone is set to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts for severe weather notifications.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio that can alert you to weather conditions in your area.
- Sign up for community alerts to receive updates on emergency situations.
- Trim trees or cut down trees that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- Secure loose objects that may blow away.
- Have whole-house surge protectors to protect your appliances.
- Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from the effects of a thunderstorm.

## **DURING A THUNDERSTORM**

- When thunder roars, go indoors. If you see a flash, dash inside. Find shelter in a sturdy building. DO NOT take shelter in small sheds, in a structure with exposed sides, or baseball dugouts.
- If out on open water, get to land and find shelter immediately.
- Get off elevated areas such as hills.
- Get out of and away from lakes, pools, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from windows; there could be damaging wind or hail.
- Avoid flooded roadways. TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!
- Get updates from a NOAA Weather Radio, weather apps, or local news outlets.

## **AFTER A THUNDERSTORM**

- Pay attention to authorities and weather forecasts for safety and possible flash flooding.
- Watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.
- Let family and friends know you are okay by using text messages or social media.
- Help neighbors if they need assistance.

