



Severe Weather and other important items.....

Severe spring weather hazards

Colorado weather can range from a mild wind storm to a devastating tornado, damaging hail storm, or severe thunderstorm. Colorado's first week of spring in 2003 brought a winter storm that compared to the worst Colorado had seen since 1913.

Some facts

Flash Floods are the number 1 weather related killer.

Lightning kills 75 - 100 people yearly. Nationwide, this is more people than are killed by either tornados or hurricanes.

Large hail causes tremendous damage annually to property and crops.

Compared with other states, Colorado ranks 9th for frequency of tornados, 38th for number of deaths, 31st for injuries and 30th for cost of damages.

The first and most important thing that anyone should do when facing hazardous weather conditions is to use common safety sense. The key to avoiding serious injury or death during severe weather is knowing precautions you can take to survive. Learn what you can do to protect yourself and your family, and help mitigate the damage severe weather incidents may cause. It is critical that your family have a plan for where to meet should severe weather or another emergency strike and you become separated.

Early Warning and Notifications:

In the past the public relied on warnings from sirens, horns and whistles for early severe weather warning. This gave us very little warning of severe weather conditions, and could only be heard within a very small outdoor area. Also, these types of devices are not capable of providing specific information on weather conditions and what you need to do to prepare.

Today there are several more effective early warning systems that provided you with up-to-date information. These systems are:

- Local Media – Radio, Television, and Internet
- Cell Phone and Pager Notifications
- NOAA Weather Alerts via a Weather Alert Radio

The best practice is to be aware of severe weather in your immediate area. Listen to local media and be prepared. Sign up for early warning notifications on your cell phone or on the internet. Purchase a NOAA Weather Alert Radio for your home AND business. These radios provide immediate information that is broadcast by NOAA weather during watches and warnings. These radios can be purchased at local electronic outlets for a small price, usually \$20-\$50.

Here are the websites for the local media out of the Denver area.

9News – www.9news.com/mobile/default.aspx

7News – www.thedenverchannel.com/emailnewsletters/index.html

New4 – www.cbs4denver.com/local/text.alerts.cbs4.2.594147.html .

Watches & Warnings The National Weather Service uses specific terminology to relay the weather threat to the public. In the summer, there are a variety of watches and warnings you need to understand in order to be prepared.

<p style="text-align: center;">Tornado Watch</p> <p>Means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. It is normally issued for 4 to 6 hours and includes many counties. If you are in or near the tornado watch area, stay informed via NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television. Keep your eye on the sky, and be prepared to take cover at short notice, as tornadoes can occur with little or no warning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tornado Warning</p> <p>Means that a tornado has been sighted or a developing tornado is reported by trained spotters or indicated on Doppler radar. A warning is typically issued for a small area for less than an hour. If a tornado warning is issued in your area ... take cover immediately!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Severe Thunderstorm Watch</p> <p>Means that conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to produce wind gusts to 58mph or stronger, or hail to 3/4 inch or larger in the watch area. These watches are issued for 4 to 6 hours at a time and for a number of counties. Stay informed, watch the sky, and take cover if a severe thunderstorm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Severe Thunderstorm Warning</p> <p>Means that a severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or a trained spotter. Take cover if you are near the severe thunderstorm.</p>

approaches you.	
<p>Flash Flood Watch</p> <p>This is issued when a heavy rain may develop and result in flash flooding in or near the watch area.</p>	<p>Flash Flood Warning</p> <p>Flash flooding in the warning area has developed or is imminent. Move to higher ground at once!</p>
<p>Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory</p> <p>Local flooding of small streams, streets, or low lying areas such as railroad underpasses is occurring or is imminent.</p>	
<p>Fire Weather Watch</p> <p>Red flag fire conditions are expected to develop. Red flag conditions are defined by critical weather and fire danger condition that could lead to extensive wildfire occurrence and/or fire control difficulties.</p>	<p>Red Flag Warning</p> <p>Red flag fire conditions are imminent or occurring. Be extremely careful with campfires, cigarette butts, and anything that would emit sparks</p>

72-Hour Family Emergency Kit

A 72-Hour Emergency Kit should be maintained by each family and should be individually tailored to meet the basic survival needs of your family for a minimum of three days. Most families prefer to store their emergency supplies in one location that is relatively safe, yet easily accessible if an evacuation is required. Items may be stored in a 32-gallon trash can, suitcase, duffle bag, backpack, footlocker or individual pack.

The following items are recommended for your **home** kit:

- Battery Powered Radio
- First Aid Kit & Manual
- Sleeping Bags & Blankets (wool/ thermal)
- Manual Can Opener
- Waterproof/Windproof Matches
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Flashlight
- Water Storage (1 gal./day)
- Water purification tablets
- Utility Knife
- Emergency Candles

- Extra Eyeglasses/Contact Lenses
- Essential Medications
- Extra Clothing
- Extra Batteries

The following items are recommended for your **car** kit:

- Always Maintain at Least 1/2 Tank of Gas
- First Aid Kit & Manual
- Class ABC Fire Extinguisher
- Radio & Batteries
- Non-Perishable Food Stored in Coffee Can
- Bottled Water
- Bag of Sand, Shovel & Tools
- Blankets or Sleeping Bags
- Paper & Pencil, Map, Tissues, Pre-moistened Towels, Plastic Bags, Essential Medications
- Flashlights & Batteries
- Reflectors & Flares
- Waterproof Matches & Candles
- Jumper Cables
- Short Rubber Hose for Siphoning

Family Emergency Kits should be inventoried and checked every six months and changed for the current season. The contents of the kits need to be assembled to meet the needs of all members of your family including your pets. For further detailed information go to: http://dola.colorado.gov/dem/public_information/emergency_kit.htm

There are several websites available to assist citizens with emergency planning. Please look over these sites, and remember to take responsibility for your safety:

<http://www.weather.gov>

http://dola.colorado.gov/dem/public_information/severe_weather/SpringHazards.htm

For more information contact Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District administration offices at 303-833-2742.