

Dealing with Specific Disasters

Having an emergency plan and a disaster supply kit will help you manage in almost every kind of crisis, whether natural or caused by humans. However, each situation requires specific kinds of preparation and action.



Read through these pages to familiarize yourself with the variety of hazards and what to do. Even if some are not likely to be a danger in your community, you may encounter them during your travels.

For those disasters you are most likely to experience at home, use the tips here as starting points and reminders. Contact your local emergency management agency and do your own research (*see back cover for helpful Internet sites*) to add to your knowledge.

- Thunderstorms
- Fires
- Floods
- Volcanoes
- Hurricanes
- Nuclear Power
- Tornadoes
- Terrorist Attacks
- Earthquakes
- Extreme Temperatures

- Do not use a corded telephone, except in an emergency. Cell phones and cordless phones are OK to use during a storm.
- Unplug electronics and turn off air conditioners.
- If outside in a forest, take shelter under a thick growth of small trees.
- If outside in an open area, move to a low spot such as a ravine or valley—but beware of flash flooding.
- Never stand under a tall, isolated tree, on a hilltop, in an open field, on the beach or near open water.
- Stay away from metal equipment and apparatus such as fences, tractors, pipes and bicycles.
- If swimming or boating, get out of the water immediately and take shelter.

Terms to Know

Severe Thunderstorm Watch
Severe thunderstorms are likely to occur.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning
Severe thunderstorms have been spotted, and people in the path of the storm are in danger.

If You're about to Be Struck

- Feeling your hair stand on end means lightning is about to strike nearby. Make yourself into a small target.
- Squat down on the balls of your feet—do not lie flat on the ground.
- Place your hands over your ears and tuck your head between your knees.

Did You Know

On average, the United States gets 100,000 thunderstorms every year.