

# 2023 SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

MARCH 6TH - 10TH

## Daily Plan



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
Houston/Galveston, TX

This year's **Severe Weather Awareness Week for Southeast Texas** is from **March 6th to 10th, 2023** and we need your help to spread the word and share safety information.

During the week, we will send out safety information each day for a weather hazard we might encounter during the spring months. These topics will include heat, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, tornadoes, flooding and beach hazards. We will also be facilitating a **tornado drill at 10 AM on Wednesday, March 8th**. This drill is an opportunity for schools, businesses and families to exercise their tornado plans which should include actions to be taken when a tornado warning is received or a tornado is observed in the area.

This plan will walk through the general topics for each day of the preparedness week as well as a daily schedule of social media content. We encourage you to share and retweet these graphics throughout the week.

Dan Reilly  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
NWS- Houston/Galveston

# Daily Topics

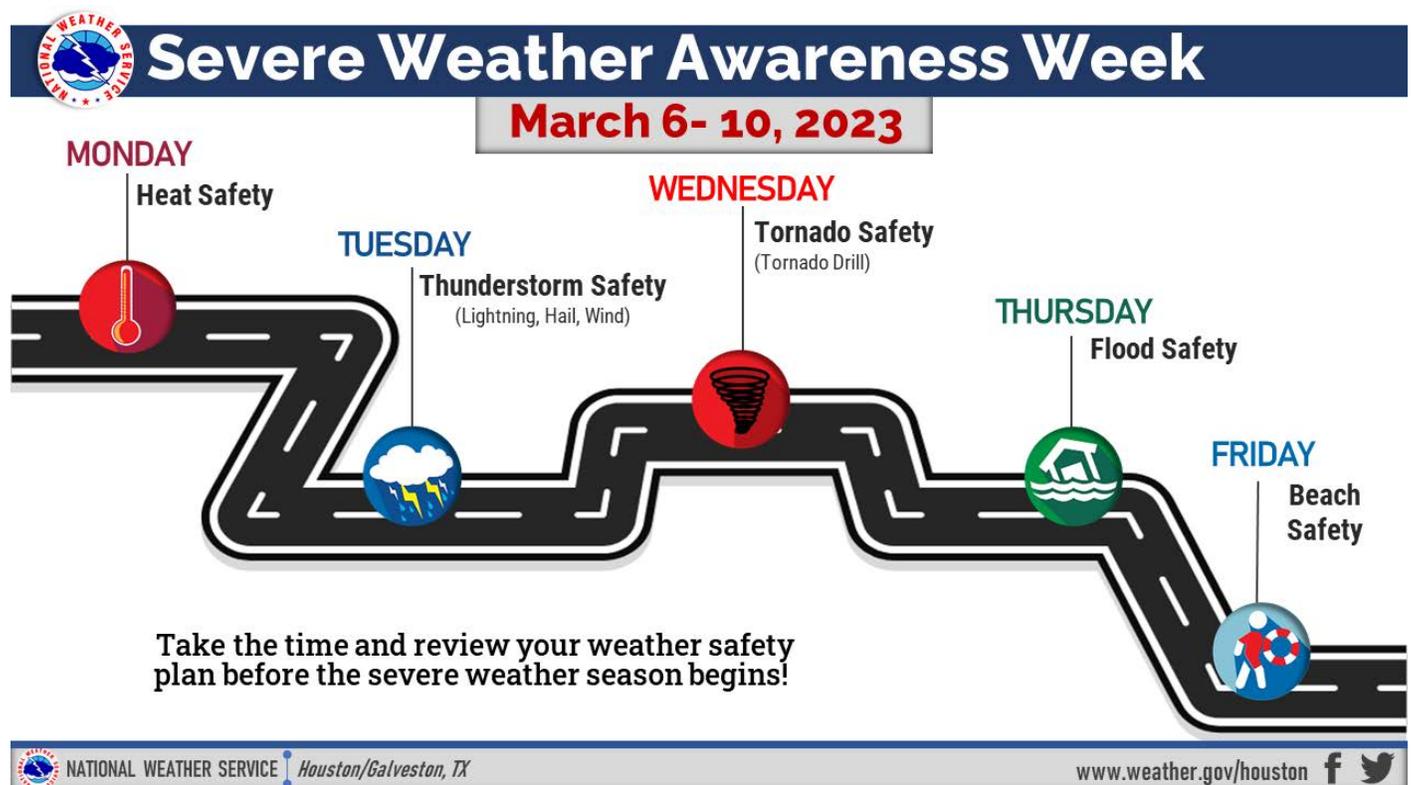
**Monday:** Heat Safety

**Tuesday:** Thunderstorm Safety (focusing on lightning, hail and wind)

**Wednesday:** Tornado Safety (Tornado Drill)

**Thursday:** Flood Safety

**Friday:** Beach Safety



The infographic features a dark blue banner at the top with the National Weather Service logo on the left and the text "Severe Weather Awareness Week" in white. Below the banner, a grey box contains the dates "March 6- 10, 2023" in red. A winding road graphic leads to five icons representing daily topics: a thermometer for Monday (Heat Safety), a cloud with lightning for Tuesday (Thunderstorm Safety), a tornado for Wednesday (Tornado Safety), a house with water for Thursday (Flood Safety), and a person with a life preserver for Friday (Beach Safety). A central text box reads: "Take the time and review your weather safety plan before the severe weather season begins!". The bottom of the infographic includes the National Weather Service logo, "Houston/Galveston, TX", the website "www.weather.gov/houston", and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter.

**Severe Weather Awareness Week**  
**March 6- 10, 2023**

**MONDAY**  
Heat Safety

**TUESDAY**  
Thunderstorm Safety  
(Lightning, Hail, Wind)

**WEDNESDAY**  
Tornado Safety  
(Tornado Drill)

**THURSDAY**  
Flood Safety

**FRIDAY**  
Beach Safety

Take the time and review your weather safety plan before the severe weather season begins!

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE | Houston/Galveston, TX | www.weather.gov/houston

## Resources:

Most of the infographics that will be shared are currently available in the following webpage:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/spring-campaign-sm-plan>

# Information NWS Houston/Galveston will Post Through the Week

## Monday, March 6, 2023

The general theme of Monday will be heat safety. Information will be focused on definitions, heat-related illness, and safety actions for protection from extreme heat.

Suggested hashtag: [#HeatSafety](#)

### Twitter/Facebook:

On day one of Severe Weather Awareness Week, we're going to talk about heat safety. Here in Houston, we know how hot and humid it can get! So, why are we talking about a common topic for us? Unfortunately, heat is the leading cause of weather-related death in the United States. The CDC reports over 600 heat-related deaths per year. Furthermore, on average, 38 children die each year from being left in a hot vehicle. Check your back seat to make sure you don't leave kids or pets in your vehicle.

Temperatures will be on the increase over the next several months. Outdoor plans will likely be on your priority list so make sure to practice heat safety!

Children, the elderly, and those with chronic illness are especially vulnerable to heat exposure.

- NEVER leave any people or pets alone in a locked car.
- Monitor people exercising or playing sports, ensuring frequent breaks.
- Bring water to outdoor activities with others to keep everyone hydrated.
- Learn the signs of heat-related illnesses at [weather.gov/safety/heat-illness](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-illness)

Protect yourself during extreme heat and stay cool! Learn more about heat safety at: [weather.gov/heat](https://www.weather.gov/heat)

Heat is the leading cause of weather-related fatalities each year. A heat wave is a period of abnormally hot and sometimes humid weather, generally lasting more than a couple of days. Heat waves have the potential to cover a large area, exposing a high number of people to a hazardous combination of heat and humidity, which can be very taxing on the body. During a heat wave, stay indoors in air conditioning.

[weather.gov/safety/heat](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat)

# STAY INDOORS DURING HEAT WAVES



Stay indoors in **air conditioning** whenever possible. If your home doesn't have AC, check if your area has a cooling center.



Remain hydrated by drinking **water** and avoiding alcohol.



Check on those **most vulnerable** to heat, including children and the elderly.



If you must go outdoors, go early or late in the day, and dress in light-colored clothing.



weather.gov



Here in Houston, we know how hot it can get! Learn how to protect yourself and others from the dangers of excessive heat.

## Why is Excessive Heat so Dangerous?

Heat becomes especially dangerous if it lingers for more than one day.

Hot days and warm nights don't give our bodies time to cool down.

Heat islands can intensify extreme hot weather, which can cause breathing problems, heat cramps, heat stroke, and may lead to illness or even death.

HEAT WARNING

## What can You do?

Check on your friends, family and neighbors during heat waves.

Wear light, loose-fitting clothing and drink water often. Don't wait until you are thirsty.

Avoid unnecessary hard work or activities if you are outside or in a building without air-conditioning.

Stay in an air-conditioned area. Air conditioning is the strongest protective factor against heat-related illness.



Did you know that heat is still a danger after the sun goes down? In large cities, dark pavement and buildings are very effective at absorbing heat which leads to warmer nights. Be sure to practice #HeatSafety even at night.

The infographic features a dark blue background with a city skyline silhouette at the bottom. Three circular callouts are connected by a dashed line. The first callout shows a city skyline at night. The second callout shows a brick building at night. The third callout shows a bedroom with a bed and pillows. The text is in white and yellow. The NOAA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Large cities often experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas because of all the heat-absorptive surfaces, such as dark pavement and buildings. This is known as *urban heat island*.

The upper floors of brick buildings are particularly susceptible to the dangers of excessive heat without air conditioning, because they retain heat after the sun goes down.

The strong influence of the urban heat island on nighttime temperatures limits the ability of people to cool down and recover before the heat of the next day.

**EXCESSIVE HEAT**  
dangerous even after the sun goes down



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:

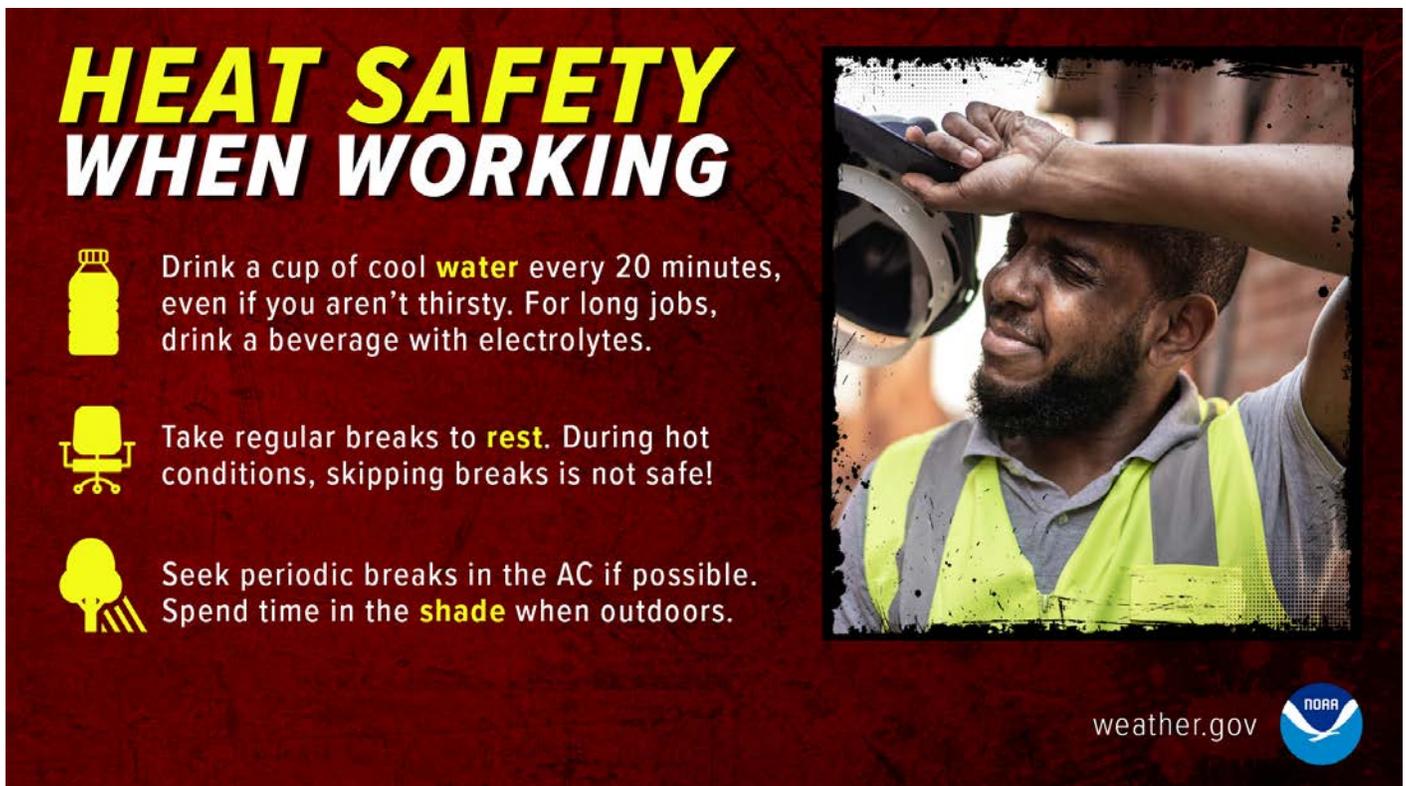


**Outdoor Heat Safety**

- ☀️ **Slow Down**  
Reduce, eliminate or reschedule outdoor activity
- ☀️ **Dress for Summer**  
Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- ☀️ **Drink Plenty of WATER**  
AVOID alcoholic/caffeinated fluids
- ☀️ **Spend Time in Air Conditioned Places**  
Keep an Eye on Those That Don't
- ☀️ **Don't Get Too Much Sun!**  
Sunburn reduces the body's ability to dissipate heat

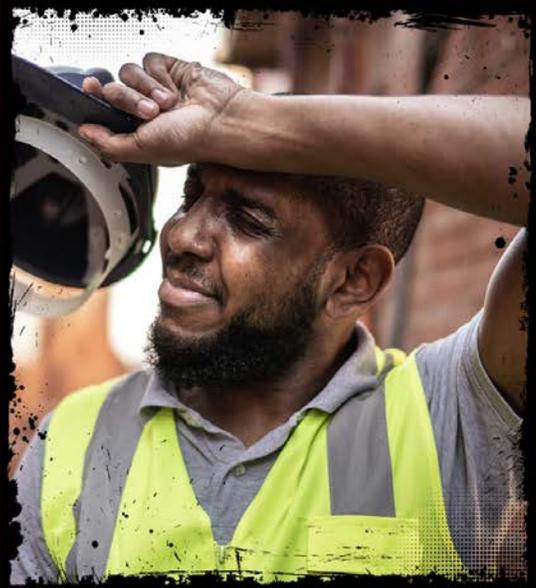
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Being outside for extended periods of time in the heat can put you at risk of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Ask yourself these questions before heading outdoors.



# HEAT SAFETY WHEN WORKING

-  Drink a cup of cool **water** every 20 minutes, even if you aren't thirsty. For long jobs, drink a beverage with electrolytes.
-  Take regular breaks to **rest**. During hot conditions, skipping breaks is not safe!
-  Seek periodic breaks in the AC if possible. Spend time in the **shade** when outdoors.



weather.gov 

When outdoors in the heat, wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight. If you will be spending time outdoors, hats are also a good idea to protect your face and scalp from harmful UV rays. Also, don't forget to apply sunscreen liberally. [weather.gov/safety/heat](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat)

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT & SUN



Drink plenty of **water** and avoid alcohol. Beverages with electrolytes can also help protect against heat stress.



Apply **sunscreen** (SPF 30 or higher) every two hours.



Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and **light-colored clothing**.



Take regular breaks in the **shade**.



weather.gov



## CAR AND PET SAFETY:

On average, 38 children die each year from being left in a hot vehicle. Children should NEVER be left in a car, no matter the time of year. Vehicular heatstroke has occurred when outside temperatures are below 70°F - sunlight can cause the inside of a car to heat up VERY quickly. Stay Weather-Ready. [weather.gov/safety/heat-illness](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-illness)

Over 900 children have died inside hot vehicles since 1998. Some of these tragedies were due to children accessing a parked car without supervision. Always lock parked cars, even if you are not a caregiver. [weather.gov/safety/heat-children-pets](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-children-pets)

# YEAR-ROUND: NEVER LEAVE KIDS IN CARS!



*Roughly a third of child hot car deaths occur outside of the summer months.*



**Check the backseat** year-round. Hot car deaths have occurred each month of the year.



**Lock parked cars** year-round. Deaths have occurred due to a child entering a parked car.



Be on guard **even if it's not hot outside**. Hot car deaths can occur even when the outside temperature is below 70°F.



weather.gov



# ALWAYS LOCK PARKED CARS



*Over 900 children have died inside hot vehicles since 1998.*



*Some were due to children accessing a parked car without supervision.*



**Lock parked cars**, even if you are not a caretaker.



If you can't find your child, you should always **check the car**.



weather.gov



## Heat Safety Strategies:

Everyone operates on auto-pilot once in a while. Caregivers should have a strategy to ensure that no one is ever forgotten in a hot care. Always be Weather-Ready.



***DON'T FORGET ANYONE IN A HOT CAR***

 *Everyone operates on auto-pilot once in a while. Have a plan!*

 Place a bag or other item in the backseat to remind you of passengers after you park.

 Place a stuffed animal in the front seat as a reminder to check for passengers.

 Consider additional methods such as phone alarms, partner/buddy check-ins, or built-in car reminder systems.

weather.gov 

Don't forget to check your back seat for your pets! Please do not leave your pets locked in a hot vehicle. Animals can die of heatstroke within 15 minutes. Look before you lock! #HeatSafety

Check your back seat to make sure you don't leave kids or pets in your vehicle. Look before you lock!



## Pet Safety



**Never leave your pets in a parked car!**



### Safety Tips For Your Pets

[weather.gov/heat](http://weather.gov/heat)



**Watch the humidity**



**Limit exercise on hot days**



**Provide ample shade and water**



**Don't rely on a fan**



**Watch out for hot pavement**

# BE AWARE OF HOT SURFACES

Your Pet's Health May Depend On It!



Check the pavement for heat before taking your dog on a walk. Place your hand or a bare foot on the surface for 10 seconds. If it is too hot for you to keep your hand or foot on it, then it is too hot for your pet.



[www.weather.gov/heat](http://www.weather.gov/heat)

## HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS:

Learn the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. [weather.gov/safety/heat-illness](http://weather.gov/safety/heat-illness)

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing</li> <li>• Sip cool water</li> <li>• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <p><b>CALL 911</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move person to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers</li> <li>• Cool with water or ice</li> </ul>
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p> <p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>	
<p>Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!</p>	

## HELPING OTHERS:

Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme heat, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Ensure that your loved ones and neighbors are safe from the heat and remain Weather-Ready. [weather.gov/safety/during](http://weather.gov/safety/during)

### Heat Impacts: Vulnerable Populations

**PREGNANT**

**NEWBORNS**

**CHILDREN**

**ELDERLY**

**CHRONIC ILLNESS**

Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme heat, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Age and certain conditions make the body less able to regulate temperature.

NEVER leave anyone alone in a closed car

Drink plenty of water, even if not thirsty

Use air conditioners and stay in the shade

Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing

weather.gov

# Tuesday, March, 7, 2023

Day two of severe weather awareness week is focused on thunderstorms, including lightning, hail and wind.

Suggested hashtag: [#ThunderstormSafety](#)

## Twitter/Facebook:

Thunderstorms can bring multiple risks. A thunderstorm is considered severe when it produces one or more of the following: hail at least 1 inch in diameter (quarter-sized hail or larger), wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, or a tornado.

Remember:

- Thunderstorms don't have to be severe to produce lightning.
- Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding.
- Strong wind gusts can cause widespread damage.

One important precaution you should take to protect yourself and your family is to always stay weather aware. Make sure to have multiple ways of receiving a weather warning when they are issued, know what to do when watches and warnings are issued, know where your safe location is in the event of a warning, and stay informed with a trusted-source of information.

Learn more about thunderstorm safety at: [weather.gov/thunderstorms](https://weather.gov/thunderstorms)

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What should you do if you encounter severe weather? Check out these tips on the actions you should take when severe weather threatens your area. Be prepared and not scared.



Do you know the difference between a Severe Thunderstorm Warning and a Severe Thunderstorm Watch?

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means TAKE ACTION.

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch means BE PREPARED.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Thunderstorm Warning</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when a severe storm is <b>happening</b> or <b>imminent</b>.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Take shelter</b> immediately!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Check for <b>forecast updates</b>, as conditions can change rapidly.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Take Action!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <a href="http://weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm" style="color: white; text-decoration: none;">weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm</a> </p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Thunderstorm Watch</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when severe storms are <b>possible in the near future</b>.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Stay tuned</b> to forecast updates and monitor sky conditions.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Know</b> where to take shelter.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Be Prepared.</p>
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Do you know the risk categories for severe weather? Learn about the severe weather outlooks issued by the Storm Prediction Center (@NWSSPC) [spc.noaa.gov](http://spc.noaa.gov)

Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories		
Thunderstorms (no label) <b>No severe storms expected</b> Lightning/flooding threats exist with all storms		Enhanced (ENH) <b>Numerous severe storms possible</b> More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense
Marginal (MRGL) <b>Isolated severe storms possible</b> Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity		Moderate (MDT) <b>Widespread severe storms likely</b> Long-lived, widespread and intense
Slight (SLGT) <b>Scattered severe storms possible</b> Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms		High (HIGH) <b>Widespread severe storms expected</b> Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense

NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts of at least 58 mph, and/or hail of at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

Severe thunderstorms can often strike after dark or bedtime during the overnight hours. If storms are possible in your area at night, it's important you have multiple ways to get the alerts!



**WHEN STORMS STRIKE AFTER DARK**  
 How Will **You** Get the Warning?

Local TV    Weather Apps    Websites    Radio    Weather Radio

Don't wait until the day of the storm to begin protecting yourself. If the forecast calls for severe weather, begin preparing NOW. Stay Weather-Ready

# STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out	The day before	The day of
<p><i>If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure that you have emergency supplies</li> <li>Know your safe places</li> <li>Have a family communication plan</li> </ul>	<p><i>The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust plans</li> <li>Make sure your phone can receive WEAs</li> <li>Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible</li> </ul>	<p><i>Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind your family of the communication plan</li> <li>Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are</li> <li>When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!</li> </ul>

weather.gov 

## WIND AND HAIL:

Thunderstorms can bring multiple risks, one being extreme or high winds. Seek shelter immediately if damaging winds are expected and stay away from windows!

### WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE SHELTER...

*...from Straight Line Winds*



*80 mph winds can overturn mobile homes*

#### Did You Know?

- ☞ Straight line winds account for half of all severe weather reports
- ☞ They are more common than tornadoes
- ☞ Speeds can reach in excess of 100 mph
- ☞ Wind damage can extend for hundreds of miles

**IF A WARNING IS ISSUED FOR YOUR LOCATION, TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

weather.gov/thunderstorm 

# Your Safe Place from **Extreme Wind**



During high winds, tree damage is expected. You are safest indoors, away from windows, in an interior room. Prevent damage to your property by trimming loose branches and parking away from trees.

weather.gov 

Large hail has the potential to cause significant damage. Make sure you have a plan if you find yourself in the path of a hail storm.

# Staying Safe During a Hail Storm

## At Home

Head indoors immediately

If time allows, close all drapes, blinds, or shades to prevent broken glass from entering your home

Otherwise, stay away from windows, skylights and head to a safe location in your home

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[weather.gov/thunderstorm](http://weather.gov/thunderstorm)

## Driving

Stay in your vehicle

Slow down or pull over and stop in a safe location, but not under an overpass!

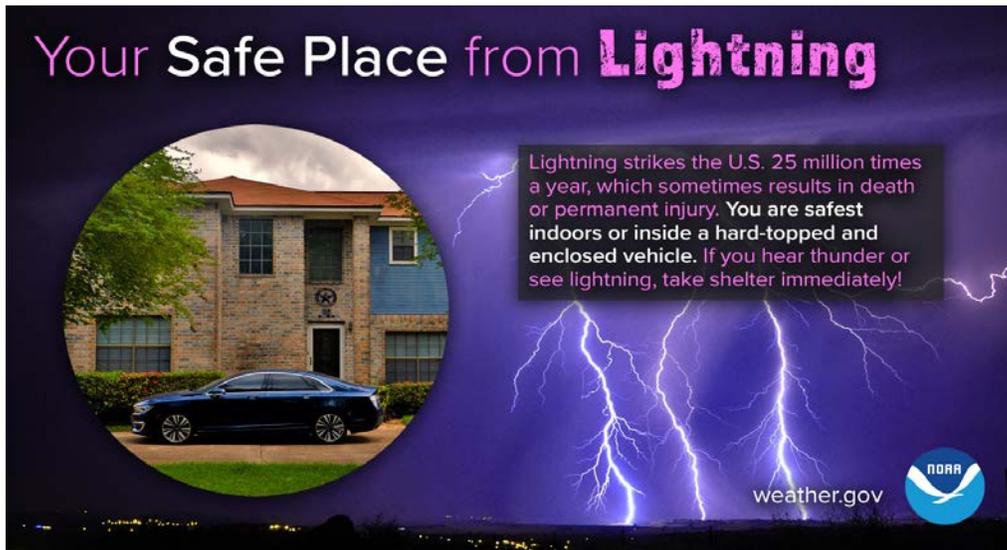
Turn your back to windows or cover yourself with a blanket, coat, or spare clothing to protect from breaking glass

## LIGHTNING:

Let's talk about lightning safety. Lightning strikes the U.S. 25 million times a year, which sometimes results in death or serious injury. You are safest indoors or inside a hard-topped, enclosed vehicle. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a storm. Make sure to get everyone inside at the first sign of thunder or lightning, and keep them inside until at least 30 minutes after the last sign of thunder or lightning.

By the time you hear or see thunder, you're already in danger.

- Thunderstorms can produce deadly ⚡ strikes up to 10 miles.
- Seek shelter & wait 30 min after the storm to resume activities
- We do not issue watches or warnings for lightning.



### Your Safe Place from Lightning

Lightning strikes the U.S. 25 million times a year, which sometimes results in death or permanent injury. You are safest indoors or inside a hard-topped and enclosed vehicle. If you hear thunder or see lightning, take shelter immediately!

weather.gov 

## HOW FAR AWAY WAS THAT LIGHTNING?

SECONDS BETWEEN LIGHTNING FLASH AND THUNDER  
—  
DIVIDE BY 5

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DISTANCE (MILES)  
THE LIGHTNING  
IS FROM YOU

EXAMPLE:  
15 SECONDS IS 3 MILES

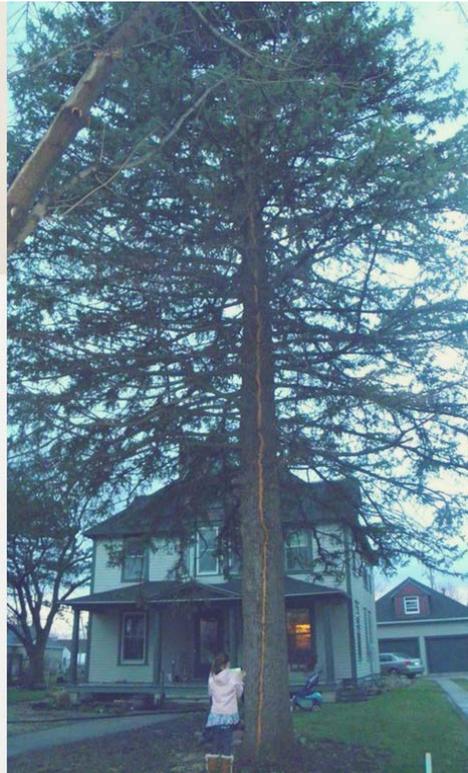
*SOUND OF THUNDER TRAVELS ABOUT 1 MILE EVERY 5 SECONDS*

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

5 Ways to Avoid  
**DEADLY  
LIGHTNING**



- When You Hear Thunder, Head Indoors
- Don't Take Shelter Under Tall Object Such as Trees or Poles
- Don't be caught in an open area. If you are, stay crouched to the ground.
- Avoid objects that conduct electricity (fences, poles, umbrellas)
- Take shelter in a car if no shelter is available.



**SAFE FISHING**

**UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF LIGHTNING**

- There are no specific warnings or advisories for lightning but all thunderstorms produce lightning.
- A lightning strike to a vessel can be catastrophic, especially if it results in a fire or loss of electronics.
- Boaters should use extra caution when thunderstorm conditions exist and have a plan of escape.

[WEATHER.GOV/LIGHTNING](http://WEATHER.GOV/LIGHTNING)

The logo for the National Weather Service (NWS).

# Wednesday, March 8, 2022

Day three of severe weather awareness week will focus on tornado safety.

Suggested hashtag: #TornadoSafety

## TORNADO DRILL:

We will be providing weather information about tornado terminology, tornado safety and preparedness. We will also be replacing our regular NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio Weekly Test on Wednesday, March 8 with a **Tornado Drill**. The main purpose of this drill is to provide an opportunity for schools, businesses and families to practice what they would do in case of an actual warning.

The schedule for the Tornado Drill will be as follow:

### 10:00 AM CST:

Test Tornado WARNING issued over Twitter and NOAA Weather Radio using weekly test code. This will signal the start of the drill. When you hear or see the drill announced, be ready to practice your family's or organization's safety plan.

### 10:15 AM CST:

"All clear" message sent via Twitter and NOAA Weather Radio.



The poster features a dark grey background with yellow and white text. On the right side, there is a photograph of a large, dark storm cloud with a visible funnel extending to the ground. The text on the left side of the poster reads: **TORNADO DRILL TODAY**, **Schedule of Events:**, 10:00 AM CST: **Test Tornado WARNING** issued over Twitter and NOAA Weather Radio using weekly test code., 10:15 AM CST: "All clear" message sent via Twitter and NOAA Weather Radio, **What to Do:**, Respond to this test warning as you would an actual warning; exercise your tornado safety plan at your school, home or business., Adjust your plan after the drill. In the bottom right corner of the poster, there is a logo for the National Weather Service Houston/Galveston, TX, and a photo credit: Photo by: Brad Goddard.

**TORNADO DRILL**

**10:00 AM: Test Tornado WARNING**

**Severe Weather WARNINGS:**

- Typically short duration (30 – 60 minutes)
- Severe weather is imminent or occurring
- Covers small areas

**Actions to Take:**

- Take IMMEDIATE action, get to your safe!
- Take action to protect life and property

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Houston/Galveston, TX

**Twitter/Facebook:**

Day three of severe weather awareness week will focus on tornado safety. Do you know there are three different alerts: Tornado Watch, Tornado Warning or Tornado Emergency? If a Tornado Warning is issued, do you know where to seek shelter? What if you are driving? Remember, bridges and overpasses are NOT safe storm shelters!

We want you to consider these things and plan accordingly as we head into the upcoming severe weather season. Whether it is severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter weather, flooding or tropical cyclones, it is vital to have a disaster supply kit ready. Plan ahead, know where the nearest shelter is and practice a tornado/severe weather drill with your family. Contact your local county Emergency Management Agency for more information.

**REMEMBER:** There will be a tornado drill at 10 AM CST. We encourage homeowners, emergency managers, schools, and businesses to participate!

Learn more about tornado safety at: [weather.gov/tornado](http://weather.gov/tornado)

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# TORNADO TERMINOLOGY



## Tornado Watch

Weather conditions could lead to the formation of severe storms and tornadoes. **BE PREPARED:** Know your safe location. Be ready to act quickly if a Warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

## Tornado Warning

A tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, meaning a tornado is occurring or expected soon. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

## Tornado Emergency

An exceedingly rare situation with a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage due to a confirmed violent tornado. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

Have you ever noticed the wording “THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION” in severe weather watches? Here’s what it means.

## "THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION..."

Have you ever noticed the wording “THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION” in some of the severe weather watches issued by the NWS Storm Prediction Center?



This wording is used in **Tornado Watches** for rare situations when long-lived and intense tornadoes are likely.

This enhanced wording may also accompany **Severe Thunderstorm Watches** for widespread and exceptionally intense straight-line wind events.

### BE PREPARED:



Review your severe weather safety procedures  
Know the safest place to seek refuge ahead of time  
Consider canceling or postponing outdoor activities  
Have multiple ways to receive a warning  
Inform others of the heightened risk



If a tornado warning is issued, do you know where to seek shelter? What if you are not at home? We want you to consider these things and plan accordingly as we head into the upcoming severe weather season.



- A GUIDE TO -  
**TORNADO SAFETY**  
OUTSIDE OF THE HOME

**AT SCHOOL**  
Follow the drill! Go to an interior hall or windowless room as you are directed. Crouch low, head down, and protect your head with your arms.

**IN A MOBILE HOME**  
Get out! Go to a nearby shelter or sturdy building that was designated using your action plan.

**IN AN OFFICE, HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME**  
Follow the action plan. Go to an interior windowless and glass free room. Crouch down and cover your head.

**IN AN APARTMENT**  
Go to the lowest floor, and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.

**AT A MALL OR LARGE STORE**  
Follow the stores action plan. Do not panic. Watch for others. Move to the designated shelter or find an interior windowless room.

**IN A CHURCH OR THEATER**  
Do not panic. Move quickly to an interior bathroom or hallway without windows. No time? Get under seats or pews and protect your head with your arms.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WEATHER.GOV/TORNADO**



You know to take shelter immediately if your area receives a Tornado Warning. But what makes a good shelter? Take the time now to figure out your options and make sure you're Weather-Ready. [weather.gov/safety/tornado](https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado)

# Tornado Sheltering Guidelines

Seek the best available refuge area **immediately** when a Tornado Warning is issued. Your chance of surviving a tornado is excellent if you follow these guidelines.

## WORST OPTIONS

- Mobile homes
- Vehicles
- Underneath a highway overpass

## BAD OPTIONS

- Large open rooms like gymnasiums
- Manufactured housing

## GOOD OPTIONS

- Interior room of a well-constructed home or building
- Basement

## BEST OPTIONS

- Above or below ground Tornado Storm Shelter (NSSA/ICC 500 compliant)\*
- Specifically-designed FEMA Safe Room\*

Find another option



Stay in place until all clear

PHOTO: U.S. Air Force - Tech. Sgt. Bradley C. Church

\*Recommended by FEMA



Mobile homes are not a safe shelter when tornadoes threaten an area. On average, a total of 72 percent of all tornado-related fatalities are in homes and 54 percent of those fatalities are in mobile homes. When you are in a mobile home, you are 15 to 20 times more likely to be killed in comparison to when you are in a permanent home.

**Manufactured/Mobile Home Tornado Safety**

**TORNADO SAFETY FOR MOBILE HOMES**

**Tornadoes Can Be Deadly**

**72%** of all tornado fatalities occur in homes (permanent, mobile, manufactured, etc.)

**54%** of the housing fatalities occur in a mobile/manufactured home, even though mobile and manufactured home only make up **6%** of the US housing stock.

- If you are in a mobile home, it is **NOT** safe from a tornado, and you **MUST** seek an alternative shelter before storms hit.
- Make plans ahead of time to stay with friends or family who live in a sturdy building.
- Your last resort is to lie low and flat on your stomach with your hands over your head in a ditch or ravine.

**Manufactured/Mobile Home Tornado Safety**

**3 Step Plan**

<b>STEP 1:</b> Every Day	<b>STEP 2:</b> Day Before Severe Weather	<b>STEP 3:</b> Day of Severe Weather
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Identify A Safe Place:</b> Have a family plan that includes ideas for shelter spaces emergency locations, and accommodations for pets.</li> <li>✓ <b>Know Evacuation Routes:</b> Have routes planned out for evacuating your home in the event of severe weather. Keep up to date on potential road closures in your community.</li> <li>✓ <b>Timing:</b> Know how long it will take you to evacuate your home during severe weather.</li> <li>✓ <b>Be Weather-Ready:</b> Check the forecast frequently to see if you are at a risk of severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.</li> <li>✓ <b>Sign Up for Notifications:</b> Know how to get watches and warning in your community. Check media alerts in your area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Verify Your Shelter:</b> Check with your community's Emergency Management on if shelters will be open in your area. Ask questions &amp; consider the needs of your pets.</li> <li>✓ <b>Coordinate with Family/Friends:</b> Share your plans with family and friends, and discuss spending time at their home if it is safer.</li> <li>✓ <b>Help Your Neighbor:</b> Encourage those around you to prepare for the possibility of severe weather. Check on them and offer to help them get to a safe place.</li> <li>✓ <b>Stay Weather-Ready:</b> Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about future watches and warnings.</li> <li>✓ <b>Transportation:</b> Make sure all cars are filled up with enough gas to get you to a sturdier shelter. If you do not have a car, contact friends or family to prepare transportation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Execute Your Plan:</b> If a Tornado Watch is issued in your community and storms are headed toward your area, it is time to evacuate your home to a sturdier shelter. Take important documents with you and don't forget your pets.</li> <li>✓ <b>Stay Informed:</b> Keep listening to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for more updates about tornado watches and warnings impacting your area.</li> <li>✓ <b>Contact Your Family and Loved Ones:</b> Let your family and close friends know where you are evacuating to. Ask if family and close friends in vulnerable housing need to relocate as well.</li> <li>✓ <b>Last Resort:</b> If a Tornado Warning is issued for your community before you evacuate, it may already be too dangerous to evacuate to a safer location. Last resort options include driving away in a vehicle (seatbelt on and keep car on to activate airbags and safety features) or moving to a protected area outside shielded from potential debris or flooding.</li> </ul>

**You can replace your possessions.....but you cannot replace a life.**

Whether it is severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter weather, flooding or tropical cyclones, it is vital to have a disaster supply kit ready.

Plan ahead, know where the nearest shelter is and practice a tornado/severe weather drill with your family.

Contact your local county EMA for more info.

<b>Disaster Supply Kit</b>	
✓	Food and Water
✓	Battery Powered Weather Radio
✓	Flashlights and Batteries
✓	Cell Phone (With Charger or Spare Battery Pack)
✓	First Aid Kit
✓	Pair of Shoes
✓	List of Emergency Contacts
✓	Whistle to Signal for Help
<a href="http://weather.gov/thunderstorm">weather.gov/thunderstorm</a>	
	

# Thursday, March 9, 2023

Day four of severe weather week will focus on flooding and flash flooding, which unfortunately we are very familiar with in Southeast Texas.

Suggested hashtag: [#FloodSafety](#)

Water is POWERFUL and during a flood, water levels and the rate water is flowing can QUICKLY change. If your area is experiencing flash flooding or heavy rainfall, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Never drive into flooded roadways or around barricades. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock over an adult, 12 inches to carry away a car, and 18-24 inches to carry away almost any large vehicle.
- Do not play in flood waters as there are likely pollutants, debris, and wildlife in the waters. There is also the chance of electrocution if there is submerged electrical equipment.
- If flood waters are quickly approaching you, be sure to get to higher ground. In extreme cases where flood waters are getting into your house, do not climb into your attic, but get onto your roof where rescuers will get to you easier.

Do you know the difference between a Flood Warning and a Flood Watch?

A flood warning means TAKE ACTION.

A flood watch means BE PREPARED.

When a Warning occurs, it means flooding is imminent or already occurring. When a Flood Watch is in effect, it means flooding is possible in your area.

Learn more flood safety tips at [weather.gov/safety/flood](https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood)

## Twitter/Facebook:

During a flood, water levels and the rate at which water is flowing can quickly change. You are safest staying indoors, or seeking higher ground if shelter isn't available. If you're stuck outside when a flash flood occurs, do not attempt to cross floodwaters by vehicle or on foot. Learn more about flood safety at [weather.gov/safety/flood](https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood)



Flooding can occur during any time of the year. As a result, it's always best to be prepared!



## 3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.



[weather.gov/flood](https://weather.gov/flood)

### 1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND

Get out of the areas subject to Flooding

### 2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER

Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.

### 3 STAY INFORMED

Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.

Know what to do during a flood! Here are some useful tips to consider in case of a flood in your area. Make sure to enable Wireless Emergency Alerts on your phone. If flooding occurs while you're outdoors, immediately get to higher ground, and NEVER enter floodwaters in a vehicle or on foot. Stay prepared NOT scared.

SAFETY TIPS

# DURING THE FLOOD

Listen to authorities for information and instructions on potential evacuations and risks.

Avoid driving through flooded roads and never drive around barricades.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.



Do you know the difference between a Flood Warning and a Flood Watch?

A Flood Warning means TAKE ACTION.

A Flood Watch means BE PREPARED.

When a Warning occurs, it means flooding is imminent or already occurring. When a Flood Watch is in effect, it means flooding is possible in your area.

**FLOOD WATCH**

A Flood Watch is issued when **flooding is possible.**

Stay tuned to trusted news sources and be ready to seek higher ground.

**Be Prepared.**

**FLOOD WARNING**

A Flood Warning is issued when **flooding is happening or about to happen.**

Move to higher ground immediately!  
Never drive or walk through floodwaters.

**Take Action!**

NASA weather.gov

The Power of Water! Would you drive through a fire or tornado? Of course not. So, why risk your life by driving through flood roadways? Don't underestimate the power of water. It doesn't take much to sweep you or your car away.

**Don't underestimate the power of water!**

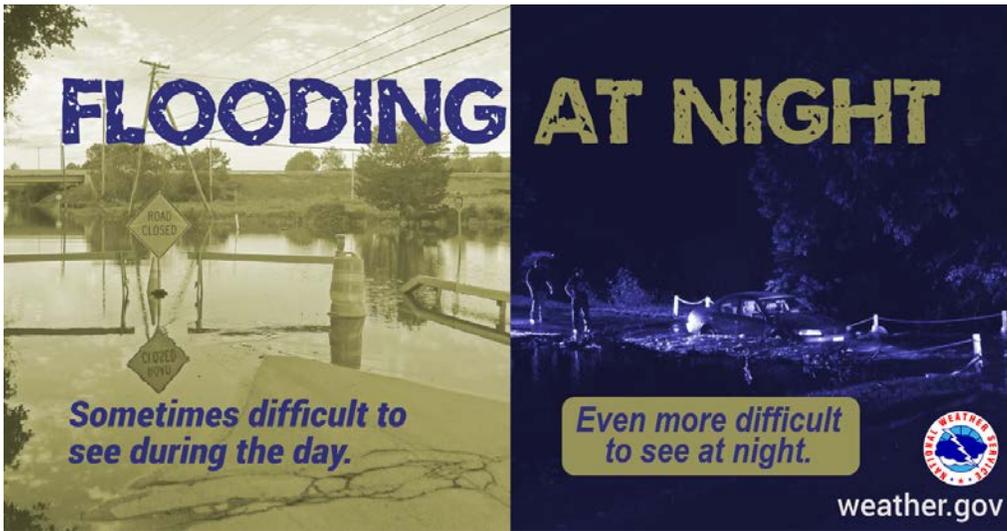
6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.

NASA

Floodwaters can be VERY difficult, if not impossible, to see at night. Always use extra caution when driving, do NOT drive around barricades and stay informed with your local authorities.



Flood events can devastate communities. Help yours be prepared and safe. Connect with your neighbors and discuss local flood risks and planning needs. If flooding is expected, help others elevate and protect their belongings. After the storm, check on your neighbors and keep others out of floodwater.

## HELPING OTHERS: **FLOODING**

- 
 Connect with your neighbors about local flood risks and planning needs
- 
 If flooding is expected, help others elevate and protect their belongings
- 
 After storms, check on neighbors and keep others out of floodwater




 weather.gov

# Friday, March 10, 2023

The final day of severe weather awareness week will focus on beach hazards and safety.

Suggested hashtag: #BeachSafety

Trips to the beach aren't always fun in the sun! Some hazards you may experience at the beach include:

- Rip Currents
- Heat & Sunburns
- Dangerous Wildlife
- Thunderstorms
- Coastal Flooding

One of the ways to prepare yourself before heading into the water is to pay attention to the Beach Warning Flags located near lifeguard stands. Additionally, make a habit of checking the forecast ahead of time for the potential for rip currents, thunderstorms, and other hazardous weather. And even on beautiful, calm days be sure to protect yourself from the sun by applying sunscreen frequently and wearing protective clothing.

Learn more about beach safety at <https://www.weather.gov/safety/beachhazards>

## Twitter/Facebook:

The United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) estimates that over 100 people die each year due to rip currents in the US. . When visiting the ocean, you are safest at beaches with lifeguards. Stay #WeatherReady and learn more about rip current safety at [weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent](https://www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent)



## Rip Currents: The Basics

### What Is A Rip Current?

A rip current is a powerful channel of water that moves away from the shore

Rip currents are more intense near inlets, jetties, and piers

A rip current is dangerous because it can sweep even the strongest swimmers out to sea

Rip currents can be \*LIFE THREATENING\* to anyone entering the surf



Always Swim Near a Lifeguard and Follow Advice of Beach Patrol and Beach Flag Warning System



### Caught In A Rip Current?

\*Don't Fight The Current\*

Swim parallel to the beach

If you can't escape, YELL for help! Try to relax and float or tread water

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
HOUSTON AND GALVESTON OFFICES  
Houston/Galveston  
www.weather.gov/houston

# TEXAS BEACH WARNING FLAGS

## Beach Warning Flag Colors and Descriptions

- Green:** Conditions are calm. Swim with care.
- Yellow:** Indicates caution should be used when entering any body of water. This flag is flown for normal conditions to remind swimmers to stay alert.
- Red:** Flown when conditions are determined to be out of the ordinary, such as the presence of strong wind, strong current, or large surf. Adult swimmers should stay in water no more than waist-deep, and non-swimmers and children should be kept along the surf line.
- Purple:** Indicates a potential problem with jellyfish, Portuguese man-o-war, stingrays, or other marine life that could be a hazard for swimmers.
- Orange:** Indicates there is an environmental warning for air and/or water quality. Ask the Lifeguard for more details.

### RIP CURRENTS

**Break the Grip of the Rip!**

**IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

**SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web site:  
[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage your skin in as little as 15 minutes. Follow these recommendations from @CDCgov to help protect yourself and your family: [cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic\\_info/sun-safety.htm](http://cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm)  
Even when it's sunny, you've gotta be #WeatherReady!

**PROTECT ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE IN**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### Use a Layered Approach for Sun Protection.

- Sunscreen works best when used with shade or clothes, and it must be re-applied every 2 hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.
- Use broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 to protect exposed skin.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and protective clothing to shield skin.
- Seek shade, especially during midday hours.

03627/190

Spending time in the sun on vacation this spring and summer? Remember to apply plenty of sunscreen! Also keep in mind that heat-related illness is a possibility if you don't take certain precautions. Find out more about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent them at [weather.gov/heat](http://weather.gov/heat)

# DON'T FORGET THE SUNSCREEN



Use **SPF 30** or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 30 minutes prior to sun exposure.



Reapply **every two hours** and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.



Spend time in the **shade** and wear light, loose-fitting **clothes** for maximum protection.



weather.gov



Persistent onshore winds combined with high tides can lead to the ocean water flooding low lying areas of the coast. Just like with flash flooding, don't drive through flooded roadways.

**Coastal  
Flooding**

**Take Action**

- Follow the advice of local officials, and be prepared to evacuate.
- Do not drive through flooded roads or parking lots.
- If you become stranded, stay indoors and move to the highest floor.

*Contact local law enforcement if you need assistance.*

The NOAA logo, featuring a blue circle with a white wave and the letters 'NOAA' above it.

weather.gov

The graphic shows an aerial view of a coastal town with houses and a beach. The ocean is flooding the low-lying areas, and a stone wall is visible between the houses and the water.

When you are gathering your supplies for a beach trip, make a habit of checking the forecast ahead of time for the potential for rip currents, thunderstorms, and other

hazardous weather.

## SAFE BOATING TIPS

**HIGH WINDS/WAVES**  
**Know Your Action**  
Reduce speed  
Head to shore

**COLD WATER**  
**Know Your Action**  
Remain calm and control your breathing  
Minimize time in the water  
Get dry and warm ASAP

**LIGHTNING**  
**Know Your Action**  
Remain weather-ready  
If you hear thunder, it's time to stay in the cabin or head to shore

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**  
Check the forecast at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)  
Always wear a life jacket!

weather.gov/lightning

## Weather Safety ON THE BEACH

**KNOW THE FORECAST BEFORE HEADING OUT**

**HAVE A PORTABLE WEATHER RADIO OR AN AM/FM RADIO IN THE BOAT**

**IF SKIES TURN THREATENING, HEAD TO SHORE!**

weather.gov/lightning

At the beach, remaining vigilant and knowing when to speak up can save someone's life. If you meet someone from out of town, let them know about the dangers of rip currents and other beach hazards.

If someone is waving or yelling for you: don't panic, take 10 seconds to assess the situation, then immediately alert a lifeguard. While help is coming, see if there's a flotation device you can throw to them. Don't attempt a rescue on your own.

## HELPING OTHERS: **BEACH HAZARDS**



Educate people who aren't familiar with beach hazards



If someone is calling for help, take 10 seconds to assess the situation, then alert a lifeguard



While help is coming, see if there's a flotation device to throw their way



[weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

