

Information Zone

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- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Flood Control District of Maricopa County
- Arizona Emergency Information Network
- National Weather Service Phoenix



Maricopa County

Emergency Management

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Publication made possible by a grant from The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, Title III Funds under 2009 Forestry Fees with the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2017

ARE YOU READY?

MONSOON STORMS

Preparedness Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

MONSOON SEASON

is the most dangerous time of year weather-wise in the Southwest.

Although the Monsoon brings welcome rains and relief from the summer heat, the thunderstorms that come with the Monsoon bring their own hazards. Lightning, severe wind, dust storms, and flooding can all accompany thunderstorms, causing injuries and property damage.

Watches & Warnings

Watches = Be Aware.

Warnings = Take Action!

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Conditions are favorable for widespread thunderstorms with damaging winds and even large hail to develop. These are usually issued only when an especially active day is expected. Watch weather reports and conditions closely.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

A thunderstorm with damaging winds of 60 mph or greater is imminent, or is already underway. These winds could also produce a dust storm with visibilities below 1/4 mile. Hail 1" in diameter or larger is also possible.

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Typically, summer thunderstorms form in the early to mid-afternoon.
- No place outside is safe from lightning which often strikes outside of heavy rain. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance.
- Typical surge protectors will not protect equipment from a lightning strike.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit ready.maricopa.gov and ein.az.gov to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Unplug expensive electronics when thunderstorms are expected, and BEFORE the storm arrives.
- If it's not too hot, turn off air-conditioners.
- Trim tree branches away from your home. Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.

Be Informed. Be Ready. Take Action.

Before & During Any Disaster or Large-Scale Emergency

- Monitor your television, portable radio, or cell phone for information and instructions.
- If you have been told to EVACUATE or SHELTER in your home, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Secure your home. Remember your pets. Check on neighbors who may need special assistance. Follow all evacuation or shelter orders given by local authorities.
- Return home only when authorities say it's safe.

During

Take Action Indoors

- Corded phones are dangerous during thunderstorms. Cell phone and cordless phones are safe.
- Wait to use any plumbing. Plumbing can conduct electricity from lightning strikes from outside.
- Don't touch electrical equipment such as computers, TVs, or cords. You can use remote controls and wireless computers safely.
- Stay away from windows and doors. Avoid concrete floors and walls. Stay off of porches.
- Bring pets indoors.

Take Action Outdoors

- WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS! Go to a nearby large substantial building or a fully-enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.
- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top. Get to the lowest point but be aware of flash flooding.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- If you are in a group, spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members.
- Stay away from water, wet items, and metal objects.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

REPORT

If someone has been struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 immediately. They do not hold an electric charge and can be treated.

Take Action in a Vehicle

- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are on a boat and cannot get to shelter, drop anchor and get as low as possible.
- If you are on a motorcycle or bike, pull over and wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming your ride.

After

Stay Safe, Healthy & Alert

- Wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before going back outside.
- Drive with caution. Anticipate traffic light outages and obstacles in the road. Report broken utility lines and damaged roadways/railways to appropriate authorities as soon as possible.
- Stay away from flooded and storm damaged areas.
- If your home or property is damaged, take photos/videos of damage, list all damaged items, and contact your insurance agent to discuss claims.