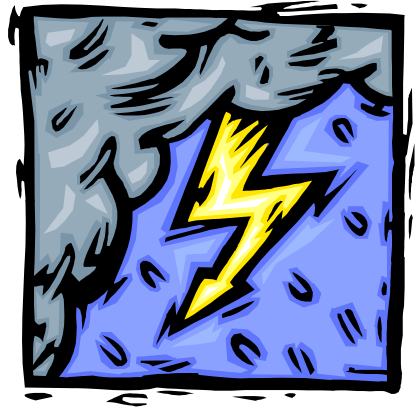


Severe Storm Safety Tips

BEFORE THE STORM

Make a plan...

- Make sure everyone knows emergency phone numbers, and when to call them.
- Learn evacuation routes.
- Make arrangements for housing in the event you need to evacuate your home.
- Establish meeting places and phone numbers in case family members are separated.
- Power outages often accompany severe weather like wind, snow and flooding. Be prepared to go without!
- Prepare for the possibility that you may have to stay home for several days.



Keep emergency supplies on hand...

- Create a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Be sure to include: portable radio, emergency cooking equipment, flashlights, fresh batteries, non-perishable food and drinking water, essential medicines and a first-aid kit.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.

Preparing your home...

- Be sure you have sufficient heating fuel for emergency equipment in case the electricity is cut off (such as a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove).
- Consider purchasing a generator. Strictly adhere to safety requirements.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased or damaged limbs, then strategically remove branches so the wind can blow through. Strong winds frequently break weak limbs and hurl them at great speed, causing damage or injury when they hit.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Prepare for your pets. If you cannot bring them indoors, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure that they have access to unfrozen water.

DURING THE STORM

Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio...

- Stay informed about the latest watches, warnings, and advisories.
- Follow all emergency instructions.
- Be prepared to evacuate.

Watch for changing conditions...

- Keep an eye on the sky. Pay attention to weather clues around you that may warn of imminent danger.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. Look for places you might go should a severe weather threaten.
- Prepare for flooding and landslides that often accompany severe storms.



Lightning...

- Each and every flash of cloud-to-ground lighting is a potential killer.

- Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area. In a thunderstorm that is about the distance that you are able to hear the thunder from the storm. If you can hear thunder, it is safe to say that you are within striking distance of lightning.
- If a thunderstorm is approaching and you feel your hair stand on end, lightning may be about to strike. Immediately drop to your knees and bend forward, resting your hands on your knees – DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND.
- When the rain with a thunderstorm ends, it is still not safe to go out. Remember the 30-minute rule and wait for 30 minutes past the last roll of thunder before venturing outside again.

High Winds...

- Secure or bring inside all lawn furniture and other outside objects that could blow into other objects or roadways.
- Assess your property to ensure that landscaping and trees do not become a wind hazard.
- Stay away from downed power lines and sagging trees with broken limbs.

Winter Storms...

- Use flashlights instead of candles. Candles are responsible for many major fires during winter weather conditions.
- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your house cooler than normal. Temporarily shut off heat to less-used rooms.
- Dress warmly and stay dry.
- If you go outside for any reason, dress for the expected conditions. In cold weather wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Wear sturdy, waterproof boots in snow or flooding conditions.
- When outside, be aware of tree limbs and other items that may fall due to high winds, heavy snow load or ice accumulation.

Power Outages...

- Use battery-operated light source, such as a flashlights or light sticks during a power outage. Due to the extreme risk of fire, DO NOT use candles during a power outage.
- Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, barbecues or propane heaters for indoor heating. Doing so can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. These can also increase the risk of fire.
- Limit the number of times you open the refrigerator and freezer to help keep foods cold for longer.
- Turn off as many lights and other electrical items as possible (except for the refrigerator and freezer); this will help to eliminate potential fire hazards and lessen the power draw when service is restored.
- Unplug sensitive equipment to protect them from power surges when service is restored.
- Stay away from downed power lines and sagging trees with broken limbs.



CITY OF BOTHELL – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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