

Severe Weather

Andrea Gutierrez, February 2, 2012

Tornados, thunderstorms, lighting---you name it. They all fit the bill of severe weather. Depending on where you live, you may experience some of nature's most violent storms. But, with proper planning, you can make some of most dangerous storms bearable.

Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms have winds over 58 mph and often have thunder and lighting. Stay indoors. In the U.S about 100 people die each year by lighting. If possible, stay away from trees and anything tall. Lie in a ditch or lay down flat. If your skin tingles, or if your hair stands up, GET INSIDE! That is a sign lighting will strike near you.

Tornados

If you ever see a huge, black cloud shaped like a funnel, IT'S A TORNADO! Inside tornados, winds can swirl up to 300 miles an hour! In tornados, get to the lowest room away from windows. Strong winds can shatter glass. Stay away from skylights and other windows.

Hurricanes

Air's moving all the time—swirling, twirling, blowing, rising. Near summer and early fall, lots of air moves over the oceans. The oceans get hot, pick up tons of water and start swirling, blowing, sinking, rising. THAT'S a hurricane! If a hurricane moves towards a shore, destructive winds, high tides, and floods could wipe out cities towns and farms!

Severe weather ranging from thunderstorms to earthquakes can affect ANYONE AT ANYTIME! Depending on your situation and planning, it could decide life or death. Listen to the weather reports, have a plan and practice!

The National Weather Service broadcasts warnings and forecasts that can be received by NOAA Weather Radios, which are sold in stores. See your local National Weather Service office or visit the web to see if your area is covered by NOAA Radio. Just go to www.noaawatch.gov to find out more.