

## Spring Emergency Preparedness Tips

**NOTE:** Watch vs. Warning: a watch means that severe weather is POSSIBLE, and a warning means severe weather is HAPPENING.

### Severe Weather

- Keep an eye on the sky! If conditions look threatening, head indoors.
- Be aware of the weather forecasts to plan your day accordingly
- In the event of a severe thunderstorm, seek shelter indoors. Head for an interior room on a lower floor and stay away from windows.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning (it can strike as far away as ten miles!)
- If a storm produces a lot of lightning, try to avoid using electrical appliances, wired telephones, and running water.
- If strong winds are forecast, be sure to bring in any unsecured lawn furniture or other items to avoid debris.

### Flooding

- Try to avoid walking through flowing water – just a couple inches can be enough to knock you off your feet.
- If flooding is anticipated, pick any electronics off the floor to avoid any electrical shorts.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary; identify a safe place for you and your family to go or meet up in case your home is not safe.

### At Home

- Check your smoke alarms and replace batteries if necessary.
- Check your dryer for lint buildup and cleaning it out to avoid fires.
- Trim any dead or rotten branches from your tree (or get a professional to help, especially if it's near a power line)

### Traveling

- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Never EVER drive around a road barrier or block!
- Plan ahead by checking weather reports for your destinations.

**Bonus Tip:** Participate in our annual Storm Spotter Training class! It will be offered in the spring.