

## CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.
- Plan for your pets.

## WATCHES & WARNINGS

Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching, while others may hit with little warning. It is important to learn and recognize the danger signs and to plan ahead. Some warning signs of an impending thunderstorm are dark, towering or threatening clouds, and distant lightning and thunder.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch** — Issued by the National Weather Service when the weather conditions are such that severe thunderstorms (damaging winds 58 miles per hour or more, or hail three-fourths of an inch in diameter or greater) are expected to be close to an area during the next few hours. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to a NOAA weather radio or weather reports on an AM/FM radio or television for more information.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** — Issued by the National Weather Service when a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious and everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated NOAA weather radio or listen to news reports on television or AM/FM radio and wait until the National Weather Service indicates the danger has passed.

## STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

# LEARNING ABOUT THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

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LAKE COUNTY  
FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
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Phone: (352) 343-9420

Fax: (352) 343-9728

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[alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov)

Web: [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword: emergency

## PRECAUTIONS DURING A STORM

### If indoors:

- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury.
- Close windows securely and brace outside doors.
- Listen to a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Do not handle any electrical equipment or telephones because lightning could follow the wire.
- Avoid bathtubs, water faucets and sinks because metal pipes can conduct electricity.

### If outdoors:

- Attempt to get into a building or car.
- If no structure is available, get to an open space and squat low to the ground as quickly as possible. (If in the woods, find an area protected by a low clump of trees; never stand underneath a single large tree in the open.)
- Be aware of the potential of flooding in low-lying areas.
- Kneel or crouch with hands on knees.
- Avoid tall objects such as towers, trees, fences, utility poles and lines.
- Stay away from natural lightning rods such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles or camping equipment.
- Stay away from lakes, rivers or other bodies of waters.
- If you are isolated in a level field or meadow and you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike), drop to your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

### If in a car:

- Pull safely onto the shoulder of the road away from any trees that could fall on the vehicle. Stay in the car and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain subsides.
- Avoid flooded roadways and intersections.
- If power lines fall, do not exit the car.

## PRECAUTIONS AFTER A STORM

- Help family members, friends and neighbors. Remember some may require special assistance, such as infants, elderly and those disabled.
- Call 9-1-1 for injured or trapped persons. Give first aid when appropriate. Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Use the phone only for emergency calls.
- If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse or circuit breaker.
- If you smell the odor of natural gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on.
- Stay away from downed, loose or dangling power lines and report them to authorities.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home when authorities say it is safe.
- In the case of an electrical outage, it is important to take precautions to ensure food safety. Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. Just remember, "When in doubt, throw it out!"
- If using a generator, make sure your home is not connected to other sources of electricity. Contact the power company for more information. Place generator in a well ventilated area away from your home.
- If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.
- Do not use candles and open flames.
- Drive only if necessary. Debris and washed-out roads may make driving dangerous.
- Clean up spilled flammable liquids immediately. Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- When cleaning up debris always use proper safety equipment such as heavy gloves, safety goggles, hardhat, heavy boots, light-colored long sleeve shirts and long pants. If you can't identify something, don't touch it and be wary of downed power lines. Be extremely careful with a chainsaw and always heed safety warnings.
- Take photographs of damage to your house, furnishings and surroundings for insurance claims.

## WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

### Local SAME\* code

*\*Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code	County	SAME Code
Lake	012069	Polk	012105
Marion	012083	Seminole	012117
Orange	012095	Sumter	012119
Osceola	012097	Volusia	022127

### Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County's public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such

as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register up to seven phone numbers and three e-mail addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword search "AlertLake".