



**Fort Wayne Fire Department**  
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**Severe Storm Season is Upon Us**

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Severe spring and summer storms bring tornadoes, flooding and lightning damage to many states across the country. The Fort Wayne Fire Department wants you to be prepared in the event of a storm, and especially the lightning, which often accompanies it. The Fort Wayne Fire Department offers some important safety tips to consider.

- Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, the Weather Channel, or local television news for the latest weather forecast.
- Find shelter on the lowest floor of a sturdy building when a storm approaches. If you cannot get inside to shelter, squat low near the ground in an open area. Lying flat on the ground is not recommended, because it puts more of your body into contact with the ground, an excellent conductor of electricity from lightning.
- Turn off air conditioning. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job.
- Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by the wind, the shades may prevent glass from shattering into your home.
- If you are in a mobile home or car during severe weather and conditions are right for a tornado, get out of the mobile home or car and find sturdy shelter elsewhere.
- People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. If someone is struck, dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency services number. The injured person has received an electrical shock and may be burned. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR.

Severe storms can happen quickly and sometimes without warning. The Fort Wayne Fire Department urges the residents of Allen County to get ready for severe storms now, while they have time to prepare. The Fort Wayne Fire Department also suggests taking a CPR course through the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. For Additional information on preparing for severe storms, tornadoes, and other disasters, contact your local American Red Cross.

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