





# Effective Severe Weather Planning Strategy for Families, Large Outdoor Events, and Businesses

<p><b>Plan</b></p> 	<p>Use this guide to <b>develop a weather safety plan</b>. Address each weather threat as it applies to your home, your location and your employees (flood, hail, blizzard, extreme heat/cold, tornado, and extreme wind).</p> <p>Consider time of day when safety planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Peak tornado occurrence is 4-9 pm</li> <li>● Peak high wind occurrence is 4-9 pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>Practice</b></p> 	<p><b>Awareness training</b>—Conduct meetings to make sure everyone knows the plan.</p> <p>Practice the plan—conduct awareness briefings/drills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluate time needed to shelter</li> <li>● Evaluate suitability of shelters</li> </ul> <p>Other ways to prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Severe Weather Awareness Week—participate in tornado drill day</li> <li>● Attend storm spotter training</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monitor</b></p> 	<p>Have a designated <b>Weather Watcher</b> to monitor the sky and NWS “watches” and “warnings.”</p> <p>Available information, before, during, after a storm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outlook: what to expect that day</li> <li>● Watch: within a few hours</li> <li>● Warning: severe thunderstorm, tornado within an hour (or minutes!)</li> <li>● Have a NOAA Weather Radio available to monitor severe weather information</li> <li>● Online weather information—<a href="http://www.weather.gov/grb">http://www.weather.gov/grb</a></li> </ul> <p>Two-way communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Get information from your weather watchers</li> <li>● Get the word out to family members, your employees, and spectators/participants</li> </ul>
<p><b>Act</b></p> 	<p><b>Be proactive.</b></p> <p>Establish sheltering/response criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Based on watches, warnings, reports, other?</li> <li>● Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter</li> </ul> <p>How will action be initiated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Means of communication</li> <li>● Backup plan</li> </ul> <p>Where will people go?</p> <p>Appropriate shelter? Recommended safe rooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interior of building</li> <li>● Room without windows</li> <li>● Roof tied to walls; walls tied to foundation</li> <li>● Protection from “missiles” (flying objects)</li> <li>● FEMA safe room guidelines—<a href="http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom">http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom</a></li> <li>● NWS school/building safety—<a href="http://www.weather.gov/grb/?n=schools">http://www.weather.gov/grb/?n=schools</a></li> </ul> <p>Enough space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visitors, especially large groups</li> <li>● People leading the group must have and know the safety plan</li> <li>● Enough time to get there</li> <li>● How will you communicate an “all-clear”?</li> </ul>