



## FACT SHEET: THUNDERSTORMS

### Thunderstorms

A thunderstorm is an extreme weather occurrence that often come with high winds, lightning, hail, and heavy rain. Thunderstorms occur mainly in the spring, summer and fall months and can last for several hours. Lightening that accompanies thunderstorms is dangerous as it causes damage, serious injury and even death.

### Know What to Do:

#### If you are indoors:

- ◆ Stay indoors and remain indoors for at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.
- ◆ Stay away from windows, doors and fireplaces.
- ◆ Lightening can enter house through plumbing pipes, so stay away from running water. Avoid taking a bath or shower during a thunderstorm.

#### In the car:

- ◆ Stop the car and pull over. Park away from trees and power lines that could fall.
- ◆ Stay in the car with your emergency flashers on.
- ◆ Avoid underpasses or low lying areas that may flood.

#### If you are outdoors:

- ◆ When you hear thunder, be aware that lightening is coming. Move to shelter right away.
- ◆ Count between lightening strikes and thunder, less than 30 seconds means the strikes are within 10 km. Look for cover.
- ◆ Avoid standing in water, high ground, isolated trees and power lines.
- ◆ Never go out in a boat during a storm. If you are caught on the water, head for the shore immediately!

#### If it hails:

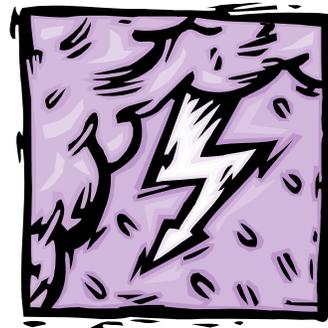
- ◆ Stay indoors or find shelter. People have been seriously injured by hail.
- ◆ You may want to protect your vehicle by bringing it into a garage *before* the storm.

### Be informed:

- ◆ Listen and watch for local weather reports on the changing weather conditions.
- ◆ A severe thunderstorm watch means that the conditions are right for a severe thunderstorm with hail, heavy rain, lightening and damaging winds.
- ◆ A severe thunderstorm warning means that some or all of the thunderstorm conditions are occurring with the current storm —hail, heavy rain, lightening and damaging winds.

### Prepare Now

- ◆ When you are making your family emergency plan discuss these safety tips with your entire household to ensure everybody knows what to do in a thunderstorm.
- ◆ Make a list of things that will need to be brought indoors when there is a severe storm.
- ◆ Remove dead trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.



### Sources:

Emergency Management Ontario Website (Government of Ontario):  
<http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/ontariohazards/Thunderstorms/Thunderstorms.html>  
 Get Prepared Website (Government of Canada):  
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/svrstrms-eng.aspx>  
 Red Cross Website: [www.redcross.ca/prepare](http://www.redcross.ca/prepare)