



The summer months are the perfect time to enjoy the great outdoors. But for much of the country, they also bring a heightened risk of severe weather.

Tornados are common this time of year, as are thunderstorms, hail, and flooding—all of which can pose a significant threat.

Knowing how to prepare for dangerous weather can be critically important. So, before the storm season continues, consider the following ideas to make sure you stay safe.

Have a Plan

Different storms bring different dangers. Preparing for the devastating winds of a tornado will be different than preparing for a flash flood.

Create a plan for all weather events, including tornadoes, floods, and thunderstorms. Clearly communicate your plan for sheltering or evacuation to all members of your household. Walking through the plan step by step and practicing exercise drills can also help commit the plan to memory.

For tornadoes and strong thunderstorms, stay inside and get to the lowest, innermost point in your home, avoiding windows and exterior walls.

For floods, get to high ground and avoid using electrical or gas appliances. Be prepared to evacuate if instructed by local authorities, and be extremely careful. You'll want to avoid floodwater, as the water is likely to move rapidly and can become contaminated—do not try to swim or drive through a flooded area.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution for extreme weather events, so be prepared for whatever nature throws your way.

Keep Supplies Ready

No matter how long a shelter or evacuation order may last, making sure your household is stocked with supplies is imperative.

Keep emergency necessities on hand and readily accessible. This includes first aid, water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, and more. Visit [ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) for a complete list of items you should always have at the ready.

Stay Informed

In the event of severe weather, make sure you're aware of the potential risks you and your family could face. This means keeping track of storms through TV, social media, or weather-tracking apps.

Keep in mind outages to power, cellular service, and internet can limit your ability to stay informed. For such cases, have a battery-powered radio, hand crank radio, or NOAA Weather Radio on hand.

By having a plan, proper supplies, and up-to-date information, you can weather the summer storms without worry and focus on enjoying the best the season has to offer.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR SEVERE WEATHER

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