

Safety First: Protect Your Loved Ones and Property

Just as important as securing the appropriate insurance protection is devising a safety plan, assembling an emergency preparedness kit and taking proactive maintenance steps to minimize any potential danger to you, your loved ones and your property.

Severe Weather and Disaster Safety Tips:

- + When at home or in a building and threatening weather approaches, go to the basement or interior hall. Stay away from the windows.
- + Stay protected from lightning by seeking cover inside substantial buildings (one with a full enclosed roof, walls and floor) and hard-topped vehicles.
- + During a forecast of severe flooding be prepared to evacuate. Get to high ground.
- + Never attempt to walk or drive through flood waters. The water can be much deeper than it appears.
- + The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement, or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and toward the center of the building.
- + If you're in a car or mobile home when a tornado approaches, leave immediately. If you cannot locate underground shelter, lie flat in a gully or ditch.
- + If you're outside when a hailstorm strikes, move to a place of shelter.

Create an Emergency Preparedness Kit for Your Residence:

Preparedness kits should be customized to meet the needs of your household. The Ohio Emergency Management agency suggests that basic supplies should include the following: flashlights or battery operated lanterns, portable radio, dry and/or canned foods, water, and blankets. Replace batteries, food and water every six months.

Clothing/Bedding:

- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hats and gloves
- Thermal underwear

Sanitation:

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, liquid detergent
- Hand sanitizer, disinfectant
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Plastic bucket
- Household chlorine bleach

Food/Drink:

- ☑ One gallon of water per person per day, to last at least three days
- ☑ Ready-to-eat canned meats, soups, fruits, vegetables
- ☑ High-energy foods (peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix)
- ☑ Canned, bottled or boxed juices
- ☑ Comfort foods (cookies, candy, cereals, instant coffee, tea bags)

Special Items:

- ☑ Medications (prescription and non-prescription)
- ☑ Spare eyeglasses, contact lenses
- ☑ Important family documents (store in a waterproof, portable container)
- ☑ Board games, books, playing cards (for entertainment)
- ☑ Supplies for individuals with special needs (babies, elderly or disabled persons)

Keep Your Property and Possessions Safe:

- + Turn off the propane gas when you are finished grilling.
- + Recognize the smell of leaking natural gas and report it immediately.
- + Clean out gutters and downspouts.
- + Look for missing shingles and broken/overhanging tree limbs, and remove dead branches and trees.
- + Check water pipe insulation to prevent winter freezes.
- + Make sure the dryer vent is unobstructed.
- + Keep candles away from fabrics and children. Do not leave fire unattended.
- + Prevent water damage by regularly checking your roof, downspouts, water pipes and sprinkler system for clogs and leaks.

Quick Tip:

Keep space heaters at a safe distance from fabrics and children and never leave them running in an unoccupied room or when you go to bed.

