

## **TIPS FOR SEVERE THUNDERSTORM OR HURRICANE**

### **Severe Thunderstorm, Before Lightning Strikes:**

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. Go to safe shelter immediately.

### **When a Storm Approaches:**

Find shelter in a building or car. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles.

Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug computers and appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electric appliances.

Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for another purpose  
Turn off air conditioners.

Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by the wind, shades will prevent glass from shattering into the room.

### **If Caught Outside:**

If in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees

If boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately

Get to a low-lying open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.

Be a very small target. Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.

Do not lie flat on the ground—this will make you a larger target

### **Hurricane WATCH:**

Take reasonable precautions to secure windows and property

Prepare to evacuate

### **Hurricane WARNING:**

Stay indoors away from windows

Be aware that the calm “eye” is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.

Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of the building, in a closet or bathroom without windows.

Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. If caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.