

# Other Thunderstorm Hazards: Hail, Damaging Winds, Lightning

Thunderstorms can bring a variety of hazards including tornadoes, flash flooding, hail, lightning and damaging winds. The National Weather Service issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings for thunderstorms believed to contain large hail (One inch or greater in diameter) and/or damaging winds. Here are some guidelines on how to stay safe when dealing with thunderstorm hazards lightning, hail and high winds.

## Lightning Safety:

- A good rule of thumb, if you can hear thunder you are close enough to be struck by lightning. ***"When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" "See a Flash, Dash Inside."***
- Get inside a home, building, or closed automobile (not a convertible). You are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects (power poles, antennae). If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- Stay away from water, wet objects and metal objects, such as fences and poles.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.
- If planning an outdoor event, make sure you have a lightning safety plan; have a designated weather watcher; identify shelters that can be reached quickly.

[www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

[www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning](http://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning)

[www.ncaa.org/health-and-safety/lightning-safety](http://www.ncaa.org/health-and-safety/lightning-safety)

## Large Hail and High Winds:

- Seek shelter in a sturdy structure away from windows
- Close your drapes or blinds; this offers extra protection from flying glass.
- Shelter your vehicle if possible ahead of the storm.
- Inspect your home and roof after a large hail storm. Cover any damaged areas to prevent leaks.



For more information click here: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm>