



## HANNIBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

### ELECTRIC, WATER AND WASTEWATER

3 INDUSTRIAL LOOP DRIVE  
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## SPRING STORM SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

*Much of the following information is adapted from material by: Missouri Department of and Health and Senior Services, Missouri Department of Public Safety, and American Red Cross*

Severe weather happens often in Missouri during spring and summer months. Storms with lightning, high winds or tornadoes can strike suddenly and cause dangerous situations. The following tips are designed to help you be safe during severe weather anytime it impacts the Hannibal area

### Familiarize yourself with these weather forecast terms to help identify storm hazards:

- **Thunderstorm or tornado WATCHES** are issued to tell you when and where severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are likely to occur.
- **WARNINGS** are issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to those in the path of the storm.

### **BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM**

MAKE A PLAN for you and your family, for when a thunderstorm or tornado strikes – whether the storm strikes when you are at home, at work, or at relatives' or friends' homes. Talk about how you will reach each other.

### Prepare An Emergency Kit.

The items listed below should be part of your basic emergency kit and kept in a container that can be easily carried.

- Water – store one gallon per person, per day, enough for a three day supply.
- Food – non-perishable, easy-to-prepare canned or dried foods. If there's an infant in the house, include formula and baby food.
- Can opener
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries for radio and flashlight.
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation & personal hygiene items
- Copies of critical personal documents
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family & emergency contact information
- Extra cash



Missouri's **READY IN 3** program provides free family safety guides to help prepare your family and household for an area emergency. The guides are available in several languages. Visit [health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyin3/](http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyin3/) to obtain a family safety guide online, and for a wide variety of other emergency preparedness information.

## **WHEN A STORM IS LIKELY**

- Listen to radio, television, or NOAA *Weather Radio* for weather reports and emergency information.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Remember "***If thunder roars, go indoors***". No place outside is safe when lightning is in the area. Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Close windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.
- **Long-term preparation:** Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.

## **DURING A STORM**

### **After getting inside a home or building:**

- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Avoid showering or bathing and contact with plumbing during a thunderstorm. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity. Do not wash your hands, wash dishes or do laundry.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during a thunderstorm. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use. Use a corded telephone only for emergencies.
- Because concrete conducts electricity, do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Stay indoors until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

### **If you find yourself outside when a thunderstorm hits, avoid the following:**

- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.
- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

## **AFTER THE STORM**

### **BE SAFE AROUND POWER LINES**

- If you see a downed power line, **don't touch it!** Call 911 and the Hannibal Board of Public Works immediately.
- Be extra cautious when you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by trees or debris, and could be live.
- Stay away from downed or sagging power lines, and do not touch ANYTHING on or near a power line. Never try to touch or move downed lines. Keep children and pets away from areas where lines may have fallen.
- Do not touch anything power lines are touching, such as tree branches or fences. Always assume a downed line is a "live line."
- If a power line falls across a car that you're in, stay in the car. If you **MUST** get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.

During a recovery period after a severe storm, it is important to monitor local radio, television or other media sources for information about where to get emergency housing, food, first aid, clothing, and financial assistance. Direct assistance to individuals and families may come from organizations, including: Red Cross, Douglass Community Center, NECAC, and other local Community Action Agencies.