
BACKGROUND

SAFETY TIPS DURING SEVERE WEATHER

The following safety tips offer advice on how to stay safe during severe weather events:

- **Keep an eye on the sky!** Watch for signs that a storm may be coming and take appropriate action if you feel threatened. Ultimately, you are responsible for your own safety!
- **Have a plan** in advance. Don't go unprepared; make sure you know what to do if severe weather strikes. Choose a shelter or a meeting place if you get separated.
- **Listen** to local radio and TV broadcasts for information and advice. Environment Canada will issue a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning if heavy rain, high winds, tornadoes or large hail are reported or expected.
- **Look for safe** places at the cottage or campground well before strong winds or tornadoes threaten. Make sure your family is aware of them. If no substantial shelter is available, leave trailers and lie in a low sheltered spot away from large trees (but be aware of flooding). As a last resort, take shelter in a grove of small low trees.
- **Stay away** from fences and open areas such as golf courses and fields when lightning is in the area. Avoid being near tall objects, such as trees, hilltops, and telephone poles. Don't use metal objects such as golf clubs or fishing rods. Get out of water and off small boats. Stop tractor work, and lift metal equipment out of ground.
- **Use the 30-30 rule** - Take shelter when you count less than 30 seconds between lightning and thunder; and remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.
- **If you have Weatheradio** (available at electronic stores for about \$40-80) and are within the broadcast area, keep it in the "alert" mode during threatening weather.
- **Monitor web pages** at www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca where up-to-the-minute maps display areas in which severe weather watches and warnings have been issued. Radar images will show you where the thunderstorms are moving.

MSC Products and Services:

MSC's Weatheroffice site

Public Warnings for Canada

http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/warnings/warnings_e.html

Marine Warnings

http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html

The Canadian Hurricane Centre

http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/weather/hurricane/index_e.html

Special Weather Statements for Canada

http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/warnings/sws_e.html

Canadian Weather Radar

http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/radar/index_e.html

Lightning Activity

http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html

Air Quality Forecasts

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/aq_smog/index_e.cfm

Severe Weather Watcher Handbook

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/education/severe_weather/index_e.cfm

Understanding your Forecast:

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/cd/brochures/forecast_e.cfm

Weather Watches, Warnings and advisories

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/cd/brochures/warning_e.cfm

Thunder, lightning and hail storms

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/cd/brochures/thunder_e.cfm