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* A severe weather WATCH means conditions are favorable for severe weather. Severe weather has not occurred. Get prepared.
* A severe weather WARNING means specific life and property are threatened, due to current weather conditions. Take cover immediately.
* Lightening can strike many miles from a thunderstorm. Sometimes up to 15 miles away from the storm.
* Straight-line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm damage. These winds can cause as much damage as a tornado.
* Hail is usually pea-sized to marble-sized, but big thunderstorms can produce big hail. The largest hailstone recovered in the U.S. fell in Vivian, SD on June 23, 2010 with a diameter of 8 inches and a circumference of 18.62 inches. It weighed 1 lb. 15 oz.
* The United States experiences more tornadoes than any other country in the world. They are considered the most violent of all atmospheric storms.
* Tornadoes can happen at any time of the day or night, but most tornadoes occur between 4pm and 9pm.

**Recognizing Public Health Month**

**INSERT LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFORMATION HERE**

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)

[WWW.ready.gov](http://WWW.ready.gov)

[National Weather Service](http://www.weather.gov)

[National Severe Storms Laboratory](http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/)

**Information Resources:**

**Extreme Weather**

# Facts:

To prepare for a severe weather, you should do the following:

* Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
* Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
* Purchase a battery operated weather radio, non-perishable food items, bottled water, candles and/or flashlights, blankets, warm clothing, and a first aid kit. Store in a dry cool place, preferably underground or in a safe room. Check supplies annually for out datedness.
* Make a plan that can help reunite your family if disaster strikes.

If you expect severe weather:

* Postpone outdoor activities.
* Avoid showering or bathing. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
* Use a corded telephone for emergencies only. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use.
* Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
* Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.

**Available Services:**

[Michigan Weatherization Assistance Program](http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1861)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)](http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/05/07/fema-severe-weather-approaches-prepare-stay-informed-and-make-plan)