

* According to the National Weather Service, Michigan is among a group of states most at risk for severe weather disasters.
* Michigan is most likely to experience thunderstorms, tornadoes, flash floods, lake effect weather, ice storms, snow storms, and heat waves.
* It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning for severe weather:
	+ Severe Weather **Watch** means that severe weather may develop.
	+ Severe Weather **Warning** means a storm has developed and is on its way to your area.
* The safest place to be during any storm is inside a secure building, home, or apartment. To stay safe you should:
	+ Listen to weather updates and stay informed.
	+ Stay away from windows and doors.
	+ Be ready to evacuate if notified to do so.
	+ Keep your emergency supply kit with you (flashlight, water, food, matches, etc.)

# Facts:

**INSERT LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness**

<http://www.mcswa.com/>

**Michigan State Police**

**Citizen Awareness and Family Preparedness**

<http://www.michigan.gov/documents/familypreparedness_color_62898_7.pdf>

**United States Government**

**Prepare for Severe Weather**

<http://www.usa.gov/Topics/weather.shtml>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Natural Disasters & Severe Weather**

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/>

**National Weather Service. Michigan Weather Preparedness**

<http://www.weather.gov/mqt/weather_preparedness>

**Be Prepared-Protect Your Family and Community Month**

**Severe Weather. Be Prepared.**

**Information Resources:**

**Flood preparedness**

* Learn about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelters.
* Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be the "family contact" in case your family is separated during a flood. Make sure everyone in your family knows the name, address, and phone number of this contact person.
* Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before the flood strikes. Be prepared to turn off electrical power when there is standing water, fallen power lines, or before you evacuate. Turn off gas and water supplies before you evacuate. Secure structurally unstable building materials.
* For drains, toilets, and other sewer connections, install backflow valves or plugs to prevent floodwaters from entering.
* Anchor fuel tanks, which can contaminate your basement if torn free. An unanchored tank outside can be swept downstream and damage other houses.

**Tornado preparedness**

* When there are thunderstorms in your area, turn on your radio or TV to get the latest emergency information from local authorities. Listen for announcements of a tornado watch or tornado warning.
* Learn about the tornado warning system of your county or locality. Most tornado-prone areas have a siren system. Know how to distinguish between the siren's warnings for a tornado *watch* and a tornado *warning*.
* Take a few minutes with your family to develop a tornado emergency plan. Sketch a floor plan of where you live, or walk through each room and discuss where and how to seek shelter. Seek shelter away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Move to the lowest points you can safely make it to including a basement, ditch, or interior hall on the lowest level of the building.
* Make sure your children know what a tornado is, what watches and warnings are, and what county they live in.

**Winter weather**

* Prepare for a winter storm before it hits. This is the best way to keep your family and yourself safe. Plan ahead: prepare your house and car; stock up on emergency supplies.
* Have a week’s worth of food and safety supplies. If you live far from other people, have more supplies on hand.
* Make sure you have a battery-powered radio in case of power failure.
* Keep a water supply. Extreme cold can cause water pipes in your home to freeze and sometimes break.
* Have at least one heat source in case the power goes out; either a fireplace with plenty of dry firewood, a gas log fireplace, or a portable space heater or kerosene heater.

**Available Services:**

**{INSERT LOCAL SERVICES AVAILABLE}**

**Step by Step Emergency Preparedness for Individuals & Families:**

<http://do1thing.com/individuals>