

### **Watch, Warning**

A **Severe Thunderstorm WATCH** means severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. People in a watch area should keep informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

A **Severe thunderstorm WARNING** means severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

**Is your community StormReady?** To help Americans prepare for the ravages of hazardous weather, the NWS has designed StormReady, a program aimed at arming America's communities with the communication and safety skills necessary to save lives and property. More information is available at [www.stormready.noaa.gov/](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/).

See chapter on "Floods and Flash Floods," "Tornadoes," "Hurricanes and Tropical Storms," and "Evacuation and Sheltering and Post-disaster Safety."

### **ACTION MESSAGES**

#### **Be Prepared for Severe Thunderstorms Protect Yourself**

##### **CORE ACTION MESSAGES**

- Determine your risk.
- Prepare members of your household.
- Pick a safe place.

For general preparedness, every household should create and practice a Family Disaster Plan and assemble and maintain a Disaster Supplies Kit. In addition, every household should take precautions for severe thunderstorms and lightning and plan for and practice what to do if a thunderstorm occurs.

#### **You should:**

- **Discuss thunderstorm safety with members of your household.** Be aware that a thunderstorm could produce a tornado. Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms along and ahead of cold fronts. (See chapter on "Tornadoes.")
- **Pick a safe place in your home for household members to gather during a thunderstorm.** This should be a place where there are no windows, skylights, or glass doors, which could be broken by strong winds or hail and cause damage or injury. In preparation for possible tornado warnings, consider making your severe thunderstorm safe place on the lowest floor of the building. See Appendix: "Wind Safe" Room for information on how to build a reinforced room in your home or school.