

- **If you perceive that a severe thunderstorm is approaching:**
 - Secure outdoor objects** such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury. Take lightweight objects inside.
 - Bring your companion animals indoors** and maintain direct control of them. Be sure that your pet disaster kit is ready to go.
 - If possible, bring horses and livestock into your barn.** Do not allow horses or livestock to gather under an isolated tree or otherwise present a risk from a lightning strike.
 - Shutter windows and close outside doors securely.** This will help protect your home from damaging winds or flying debris.
 - Avoid electrical equipment and telephones.** Lightning could follow the wire. Television sets are particularly dangerous at this time. Use a battery-powered radio or television.
 - Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks** because metal pipes can transmit electricity.

What to Do During a Severe Thunderstorm Warning

CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Stay informed.
- Go to shelter.
- Avoid lightning attractors.

You should:

- **Use a NOAA Weather Radio** or listen to a local station on a battery-powered radio or television for updated emergency information. If the power goes out, you still will have access to important information.
- **Draw the blinds and shades over windows.** If windows break because objects are blown by the wind or large hail, the shades will help prevent glass from shattering into your home.
- **Unplug appliances** and avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. If lightning strikes, telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Leaving electric lights on, however, does not increase the chances of your home being struck by lightning.
- **Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose.** Metal pipes and plumbing can conduct electricity if struck by lightning.
- **Turn off the air conditioner.** Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job.
- **Maintain direct control of your animals.** Many animals are unsettled by thunderstorms and it is more comforting and safe for them to be with you.