

SEVERE WEATHER

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOPIC

Make sure your family and home are ready in case severe weather strikes. Knowing safety tips and having severe weather plans in place are the best way to prepare.

DEFINITIONS: (source [CNY](#))

Watch – essentially means a “chance” this condition will happen and usually covers a large geographical area for a lengthy time period.

Advisory – are sort of in between a WATCH and WARNING. The expected weather condition has a pretty good chance of occurring, even a likely chance of occurring, but typically an advisory is used for “less” severe type of weather conditions. A Wind Advisory might be issued or a Freezing Rain Advisory issued instead of a High Wind Warning or an ice Storm Warning.

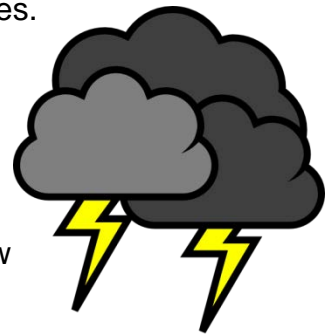
Warning – means the said weather is already occurring or is likely to occur and to take proper protective measures. Warnings are usually issued for much smaller geographical areas and usually for shorter more definite time periods.



THUNDER STORM AND LIGHTNING: (source: [CDC](#))

OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- **Be aware.** Check the weather forecast before participating in outdoor activities.
- **When thunder roars, go indoors.** Find a safe enclosed shelter such as a home, office, shopping center, or hard-top vehicle with the windows rolled up.
- **Crouch close to the ground and separate.**
 - ◇ If you are caught in an open area, crouch down in a ball-like position with your head tucked and hands over your ears so that you are down low with minimal contact with the ground. Do not lie down – lightning causes electric currents along the top of the ground.
 - ◇ If you are in a group during a thunderstorm, separate from each other. This will reduce the number of injuries if lightning strikes the ground.
- Do not stay in open vehicles, structures, and spaces. Avoid tall structures.



INDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- **Avoid water.** Do NOT bathe, shower, wash dishes, or have any contact with water during a thunderstorm because lightning can travel through a building’s plumbing.
- **Avoid electronic equipment.** Do NOT use your computers, game systems, washers, dryers, stoves, or anything connected to an electrical outlet. Lightning can travel through electrical systems.
- **Avoid corded phones.** However it is safe to use cordless or cellular phones during a storm.
- **Avoid windows, doors, porches, and concrete.** Do NOT lie on concrete floors during a thunderstorm. Also, avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.



HURRICANES, CYCLONES, AND TYPHOONS:

Difference between a hurricane, cyclone, and typhoon: (source [National Ocean Service](#))

They are all the same weather phenomenon; people just use different names for these storms in different places.

- Atlantic and Northeast Pacific – the term “hurricane” is used.
- Northwest Pacific – the term “typhoon” is used.
- South Pacific – the term “cyclone” is used.

If you are in an area with risk of hurricanes be prepared.

- **Listen to the radio** for critical weather information
- **Check disaster supplies** and replace or restock as needed.
- **Bring items indoors.** Put inside anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- **Close your windows, doors, and hurricane shutters.** If you don't have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- **Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.** Keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out
- **Prepare your home by:** turning off propane tank, unplugging small appliances, and filling your car's gas tank.
- **Create a hurricane evacuation plan** with members of your household and practice it.
- **Research about your community's hurricane response plan.** Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special needs and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- **Obey evacuation orders.** Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.

OSU EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND WARNING INFORMATION



[OSU Emergency Preparedness Website](#)
[OSU Alert—Sign Up](#)

OSU Emergency Plan mobile device app—*In Case of Crisis*

- [Apple iTunes Store \(iOS\)](#)
- [Google Play \(Android\)](#)
- [Kindle Fire](#)

For Window Devices, [Download the PDF version](#)

MORE INFORMATION

[Tripcheck.com](#) - Oregon Department of Transportation Tripcheck

[Water.weather.gov](#) - River height/stream gages

[Facebook.com](#) - Weather bulletins and updates from the National Weather Service for Portland area

[Noaa.gov](#) - Weather forecast for Oregon

[RedCross.org](#) - Hurricane Preparedness

If electronic copy (with clickable links) is needed, e-mail your request to Michael.Bamberger@oregonstate.edu.