

# Take Precautions to Avoid Injury, Property Damage During Summer Storms



Warm weather brings an uptick in hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, floods, heavy rains and hail — any of which can turn a beautiful summer day dangerous in just moments. Make sure your family is ready for summer weather disasters.

Identifying possible hazards is the first step in preparing for natural disasters.  
(Photo courtesy of Fire/EMS Department)

The International Code Council (ICC) offers the following tips to help you and your family prepare to stay safe from these potential disasters:

- Develop a family evacuation plan. Establish at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your family. Plan ahead for your pets as many shelters will not accept them.
- Create a disaster supply kit for use if you remain in your home or are forced to evacuate after a disaster. Be sure the necessities in your kit are fresh and properly stored.
- Stay tuned to the internet, TV, and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for updates and information.
- Flooded roads have hidden dangers. Never drive through floodwaters, on flooded roads or cross flowing streams. It takes only six inches of fast-flowing water to sweep you off your feet and two feet of water to move an SUV.
- If you live in a high wind or hurricane-prone area and do not have code-approved shutters, consider temporarily protecting your doors and windows with plywood covers.
- Secure lawn furniture and any loose outdoor items that may become wind-borne.
- Consider building or retrofitting to create a tornado-safe room in your home.
- Use surge protectors to protect electronic appliances.

For more information, visit [www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org).