Severe Weather Preparedness

Spring in Indiana means the return of dangerous weather conditions including severe thunderstorms, lightning, and tornadoes. Know how to protect yourself in the event of severe weather. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

Tornado Facts:

Indiana set a record in 2011 for tornadoes with 72. The annual average is 21. The 2012 Henryville tornado was the first killer tornado since Evansville in 2005.

The average forward speed is 30 mph but varies from 0 to 70 mph. The average tornado width is about 100 yards but can reach one mile wide. Tornadoes occur year round but are most likely from April to June. Preferred hours are from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a second peak from 12 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Tornado Safety

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a tornado hazard:

- **Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to information sources.

- **Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Familiarize yourself with the best shelter locations in the event of a tornado warning. Some examples are listed below:

**IN THE HALL FOR DISCOVERY AND LEARNING RESEARCH:**

Go to the first floor main hallway on the west end of the building, beginning inside the west main entrance and not going past the elevator. The first floor restrooms or the basement stairwell can also be used as shelter locations.

**IN HOMES OR SMALL BUILDINGS:**

Go to the basement (if available) or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris.

**IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, OR SHOPPING CENTERS:**

Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses. Follow the instructions of the facility safety officials.

**IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS:**

Go to interior small rooms or halls. Stay away from exterior walls or glassy areas.

**IN CARS OR MOBILE HOMES:**

Most tornado deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you are in either of those locations, and have time, leave them for a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter.

**IF NO SUITABLE STRUCTURE IS NEARBY:**

Lie flat in your car or nearest ditch and use your hands to cover your head.

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Lightning Facts:

All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous. Lightning kills more people each year than tornadoes.

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. Many deaths from lightning occur ahead of the storm because people wait to the last minute before seeking shelter. You are in danger from lightning if you can hear thunder. If you can hear thunder, lightning is close enough that it could strike your location at any moment.

Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. On average, 10% of strike victims die; 70% of survivors suffer serious long term effects.

Blue Skies and Lightning. Lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles. Even when the sky looks blue and clear, be cautious. If you hear thunder, take cover. At least 10% of lightning occurs without visible clouds overhead in the sky.

Lightning Safety

♦ Get inside! "When thunder roars go indoors!"
♦ Inside a building with wiring or plumbing is safest. Inside a hard-topped vehicle is safer than outside but avoid contact with metal or outside parts of the vehicle.
♦ If you can’t get to a shelter, stay away from trees or open areas where you may be the tallest object.
♦ Avoid metal! Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles. Don’t hold on to metal items such as golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools.
♦ Get out of the water, it’s a great conductor of electricity. Don’t stand in puddles of water, even if wearing rubber boots.
♦ Move away from a group of people. Stay several yards away from other people. Don’t share a bleacher bench or huddle in a group.

Lightning Death Statistics

- 31% Near telephone poles
- 28% On golf courses
- 17% Near heavy equipment
- 13% On or near bodies of water
- 6% Under trees
- 4% In fields or ballparks
- Other—includes riding a bike, mowing the lawn, talking on the phone, and climbing mountains

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Worker’s Compensation - Injuries on the Job

All employees paid through Purdue University Payroll are covered by Worker’s Compensation—faculty, staff, administrative, full-time, part-time, exempt, hourly, fellows and student employees.

♦ You must inform your supervisor immediately if you are injured on the job due to a work-related situation, even if you do not wish to obtain immediate medical attention.
♦ Your supervisor will complete the First Report of Injury (FROI) form within 24 hours.
♦ Instructions for the FROI Form are available at the REM website.
♦ You may not submit the injury report yourself. Your supervisor or designee is responsible for submitting the report.

When you need immediate treatment for a work-related illness or injury, go to an approved health care facility:

♦ IU Health Arnett Occupational Health Center, 2600 Greenbush Street, Lafayette.
♦ Regional Occupational Health Center, 1321 Unity Place, Creasy Lane, Lafayette.

If no ambulance is needed:

♦ Examples of injuries that do not require an ambulance: abrasions, bruises, minor lacerations, punctures, splinters, minor burns, dirt or dust in the eye, sprains, repetitive motion injuries, rashes.
♦ If you can safely drive yourself, you may use your own vehicle to go to an approved medical provider.
♦ Your supervisor or designee may drive you to an approved medical provider using his or her own vehicle or one owned by the University.
♦ If someone drives his or her own vehicle, the driver assumes liability for any damage to the vehicle or to any other involved vehicles, if an accident occurs.

When an ambulance is needed:

♦ Examples of injuries or health problems that require an ambulance: chest pain, difficulty breathing, diabetic emergencies, loss of consciousness, head injury or serious blow to the head, uncontrolled bleeding, fractures and dislocations, falls from height or down stairs, injuries of the spine, eye injuries/chemicals in the eye and chemical burns.
♦ If the situation is a medical emergency, call 911. If you are calling from a non-campus phone, let the operator know that you are on the Purdue campus.
♦ Whenever there is doubt about the severity of an injury, err on the side of caution and call an ambulance.

The DLRC Safety Committee welcomes your ideas for future issues of the DSS. Contact us by email: learningcenter@purdue.edu. This newsletter is published quarterly.