

Emergency Action - Prepare Now



Surry County

Emergency Weather

Information

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EMERGENCY ACTION – PREPARE NOW

Watch: Conditions are favorable for a severe storm, tornado, etc. And everyone should stay alert to weather conditions and news announcements.

Warning: Conditions are imminent, or that a tornado has been sighted in a particular area. These warnings are issued by the National Weather Service “**ONLY**” when a tornado or severe storm has been sighted or indicated by someone or their radar.

Tornado

- Buy battery-powered, weather radio and learn local emergency stations.
- Listen to the radio for weather alerts / emergency instructions.
- Learn what tornado conditions look like.
- Learn meaning of watch – warning.
- Report revolving funnel-shaped clouds to authorities – Call 911
- Identify shelter room, (basement, storm cellar, interior room).
- Seek shelter immediately in basement or interior room on lower level; take position under sturdy table.
- Stay away from doors windows, outside walls; do not open windows.
- Avoid buildings with wide span roofs.
- If not sheltered, lie flat in ditch with hands covering head. Do not seek shelter under a tree.
- If in a vehicle, get out, lie flat in a ditch with hands covering head.
- Plan to secure / evacuate mobile home for adequate shelter.
- Know shelter locations in places you spend time.
- List shelter locations, schools, fire departments, Red Cross.

When a tornado watch is in effect....

You can take certain precautions to lessen the danger.

- Move cars inside a garage or carport, if possible, to avoid damage from hail that often accompanies severe storms. Keep your car keys and house keys with you.
- Move lawn furniture and yard equipment such as lawnmowers inside (if time permits). Otherwise they could become damaged or act as dangerous projectiles causing serious injury or damage.
- Account for family members at home. Have your emergency kit ready.

When a tornado warning has been issued on the radio or by siren....

- Seek shelter immediately.
- **AT HOME:** In the basement under something sturdy, like a bench. If there is no basement, a small room in the middle of the house (a closet or bathroom is the best). Always stay away from outside walls and windows.

- **AT WORK OR SCHOOL:** Designated shelter areas are best. Stay away from large open rooms like auditoriums and gymnasiums, and rooms with windows. Lie low with your hands covering the back of your head to reduce neck injury.
- **IN SHOPPING MALLS:** Go to a designated shelter area or to the center of the building on a low level. Stay away from large, open rooms and windows. Never seek shelter in cars in the parking lot.
- **IN MOBILE HOMES OR CARS:** Leave the vehicle. Seek a safe structure or lie down in a low area with your hands covering the back of your head and neck. Keep alert for flash floods that often accompany such storms.

After a Tornado....

- Keep calm. Stay in your shelter until after the storm is over.
- Check people around you for injuries. Begin First Aid or seek help if necessary. Always cooperate with local officials.
- Check utility lines and appliances for damage. If you smell gas, open the windows and turn off the main valve. Don't turn on lights or appliances until the gas has dissipated. If electric wires are shorting out, turn off the power.
- When you go outside, watch out for downed power lines.
- Notify your insurance agent and provide as much detail as possible about damage to your property. Follow the agent's directions on filing your claim.
- Take steps to protect your home and furniture from further damage.
- Clean and dry your furniture, bedding, rugs and carpeting as soon as possible.
- Board up windows and holes in the walls or roof.
- Don't be rushed into signing repair contracts. Deal with reputable contractors. If you're unsure about contractor's credentials perhaps your agent, claim adjuster, Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce can help. Make sure the contractor you hire is experienced in repair work – not just new construction. Be sure of payment terms and consult your agent or adjuster before you sign any contracts.
- Keep receipts for living expenses beyond your normal ones (such as temporary quarters) and for temporary repair costs so you can seek insurance reimbursement.

LIGHTNING

- Monitor weather before outdoor activities.
- Stay indoors.
- Do not stand in front of windows or doors.
- Avoid plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Do not use faucets or showers.
- Avoid steel reinforced concrete buildings and metal.
- Avoid hilltops, beaches, small structures in open area and open water.
- Do not congregate with other people, spread out.
- Do not use phone or electrical equipment.
- Boat: go ashore immediately.

- Forest: go to low area under low, thick tree growth.
- Open area: go to low area, crouch (do not lie flat).
- Car: Try to stay in car until storm passes.
- If hair stands on end (good indicator that lightning will strike)

WINTER STORM

- Learn meaning of watch – warning.
- Have appropriate cold weather clothing.
- Have rock salt and sand for traction in ice.
- Equip vehicle with all – season / snow tires and fill gas tank.
- Keep emergency auto kit readily accessible.
- Maintain sufficient heating fuel.
- Make sure heating systems / fireplaces function properly.
- Buy emergency heating equipment designed for indoor use.
- Winterize home.
- Stock extra food and drinking water (bottles or jugs)
- Stay indoors until storm ends.
- Listen to radio / TV and Emergency Alert System for emergency information / instructions.
- Do not over – exert if shoveling snow.
- Wear warm, loose fitting, layered, light – weight and dry clothing.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills to cook / heat indoors (Carbon Monoxide hazard).
- If traveling in a vehicle: Stay on main roads.
- If necessary, pull off road, stay with vehicle, use hazard signals, bright distress flag.
- If trapped in blizzard, clear tail pipe, run engine / heater 10 minutes each hour: open window slightly: maintain body heat (use map, seat cover, floor mat for insulation).
Night: keep dome light on so work crews can see the vehicle.

FLOOD

- Buy weather radio and learn local emergency station.
- Learn if your area is prone to floods.
- Learn meaning of watch – warning.
- Have plywood to cover all windows.
- In flood zone, purchase flood insurance.
- Plan to secure / evacuate mobile home for adequate shelter.
- Listen to designated radio/TV, Emergency Alert System for emergency instructions.
- Stay away from floodwater; do not attempt to swim, walk or drive through.
- Secure / bring in outdoor furniture.
- If instructed, turn off utilities at main switches; unplug appliances (do not touch electrical equipment if wet).

- If deep water, allow to flow freely in basement (may avoid structural damage).
- Do not stack sandbags against outside of house, adds pressure.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Do not drink tap water. (may be contaminated)
- Move valuables to upper floors.

FIRE

- Know how to respond to different fire types.
- Make ABC extinguishers accessible on every floor (call Fire Dept. for training).
- Install smoke detectors; test once each month; replace batteries at least once each year.
- Identify 2 escape routes from each room.
- Conduct fire drills.
- Make sure windows are not nailed / painted shut.
- Establish outside meeting place; never go back into a burning building.
- Know where flammable materials are in home / garage; properly dispose.
- Regularly inspect / clean chimneys.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Keep folding / chain – style ladder stored in each upstairs bedroom.
- Mark windows of children or others who may not self – rescue.
- Make sure address is clearly visible, and fire trucks can reach your home.
- Call Fire Dept.
- Warn other occupants / pull fire alarm.
- Get out of burning building.
- Small fires: use ABC fire extinguisher, baking soda or pan lid for small oil / grease fire.
- Feel door to see if hot before opening; if hot, very low-level window may be option for escape. Otherwise, distress cloth.
- If leaving, be prepared to crawl (smoke, heat rise).
- Clothes catch on fire: Stop, Drop and Roll.
- Use stairwell, not elevator.

HURRICANE

- Listen to designated radio / TV, Emergency Alert System for emergency information / instructions.
- Move valuables to upper floors in case of flood.
- Secure / bring in outdoor furniture.
- Close permanent shutters; cover all windows with plywood (taping windows does not prevent breakage).
- If staying:
 - Keep away from windows, doors outside walls; do not open windows.
 - Bring pets inside.
- If evacuating:
 - Turn off water / electricity at main stations; unplug appliances (do not touch if wet).
 - Do not leave pet(s) behind; take with you or to a preplanned, safe location.
 - Avoid downed wires.

- Do not try to drive.
- Moor boat away from other boats in protected area.
- Buy battery – powered weather radio and learn local emergency station.
- If in flood zone, purchase flood insurance.
- Plan to secure / evacuate mobile home for adequate shelter.
- Install storm shutters; store plywood to cover all windows.
- Remove branches, tall trees that may fall on house.
- Prior to storm season stock extra food, batteries and jug drinking water.

DISASTER SHELTERS IN SURRY COUNTY

PRIMARY

North Surry High School, West Pine Street, Mt. Airy, NC 336-789-5055 (No back up power)
Park: 500 Feed: 600 Sleep: 300 Longitude 80.6734 Latitude 36.5049

Surry Central High School, Main Street, Dobson, NC 336-386-8842 (No back up power)
Park: 400 Feed: 220 Sleep: 400 Longitude 80.7155 Latitude 36.3817

Elkin High School, 334 Elks spur Street, Elkin, NC 28621, 336-835-3858 (No back up power)
Park: 100 Feed: 700 Sleep: 300 Longitude 80.8602 Latitude 36.2456

East Surry High School, 705 W, Main Street, Pilot Mtn, NC 336-368-2251 (No back up power)
Park: 200 Feed: 300 Sleep: 250 Longitude 80.4771 Latitude 36.3932

Cedar Ridge Elementary, 734 Flippin Rd, Lowgap, NC 336-352-4320 (No back up power)
Park: 100 Feed: 150 Sleep: 150 Longitude 80.8002 Latitude 36.5087

Central Middle School, 1990 Zephyr Road, Dobson, NC 336-386-4018 (No back up power)
Park: 100 Feed: 700 Sleep: 300 Longitude 80.7345 Latitude 36.3960

Pilot Mtn. Middle School, 202 Friends St, Pilot Mtn., NC 336-368-2641 (No back up power)
Park: 60 Feed: 300 Sleep: 300 Longitude 80.4699 Latitude 36.3896

American Red Cross Bldg., Westlake Drive, Mt. Airy, NC 336-786-4183 (Has back up power)
Park: 50 Feed: 35 Sleep: 35

Surry Community College, South Main, Dobson, NC 336-386-8121 (No back up power)
Park: 500 Feed: 400 Sleep: 400

South Westfield Ruritan Bldg., cook School Rd, Pilot Mtn. NC (No back up power)
Park: 40 Feed: 150 Sleep: 35

SECONDARY

Dobson Elementary School, 414 W. Atkins St., Dobson, NC 336-386-8913

Longitude 80.7267 Latitude 36.3946

Franklin Elementary School, 727 S. Franklin Rd., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-2459

Longitude 80.6323 Latitude 36.4890

Meadowview Middle School, 846 McKinney Rd., Mount Airy, NC 336-789-0276

Longitude 80.6518 Latitude 36.4814

White Plains Elementary School, 710 Cadle Ford Rd., Mount Airy, NC 336-320-3437

Longitude 80.6664 Latitude 36.4486

Elkin Elementary School, 135 Virginia Rd., Elkin, NC 336-835-2756

Longitude 80.8544 Latitude 36.2457

Copeland Elementary School, 948 /Copeland School Rd., Dobson, NC 336-374-2572

Longitude 80.6509 Latitude 36.3371

Shoals Elementary School, 1800 Shoals Rd., Pinnacle, NC 336-325-2240

Longitude 80.5036 Latitude 36.3331

Westfield Elementary School, 273 Jessup Grove Church Rd., Pilot Mtn., NC 336-351-2745

Longitude 80.4949 Latitude 36.4597

Tharrington Elementary School, 315 Culbert St., Mount Airy, NC 336-789-9046

Longitude 80.6019 Latitude 36.4904

Flat Rock Elementary School, 1725 E. Pine St., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-4131

Longitude 80.5877 Latitude 36.5276

Mount Airy High School, 1011 N. South St., Mount Airy, NC 336-789-5147

Longitude 80.6156 Latitude 36.5124

DISASTER TIPS

- Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit
- If you are confined to your home or must evacuate as a result of severe weather or disaster, a disaster supplies kit can be useful. Keep it readily accessible for safety, comfort and convenience. All household members should know where it is stored. Replace food, water, medical supplies and batteries as needed. Place the items you need during an evacuation in an easy to carry container. Include:
- 3 day supply of water (1 gallon / per person / per day) in clean, marked, plastic containers

- 3 day supply of nonperishable, nutritious food not requiring cooking, such as peanut butter, canned or dried meats, canned or dried fruits, vegetables, powdered drink mix, powdered or canned milk, eating utensils and a manual can opener.
- List of prescription medicines (to gather quickly)
- Extra eye glasses or other needed eyewear
- Extra car keys
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers, baby food, snack foods)
- Pet food, extra water, any special medication
- Standard first aid kit
- ABC fire extinguisher
- Battery operated radio, flashlights, plenty of extra batteries
- Tools, rope, wrench (including gas shut-off wrench), pliers, hammer and nails.

FOR COMFORT

- Change of clothing, sturdy footwear for each person
- Bedding for each person
- Sanitary supplies (toilet paper, feminine supplies)

FOR CONVENIENCE

- Cash or credit card
- Medical insurance ID numbers
- Out of town contact list
- Paper and pencil
- Important family documents
- Reading Material

AUTO KIT

- Assemble a smaller version of a disaster supplies kit to be stored in the vehicle.
- Maintain regularly. Include:
- Blanket / sleeping bag
- Flares and / or triangles
- Jumper cables
- Shovel
- Rock salt and sand (if applicable)
- Tire repair / replacement supplies
- Maps

DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- Meet with family members to develop an emergency plan and regularly conduct drills to practice your plan.
- Become aware of emergency situations that can occur in your area. Contact your local emergency management office, American Red Cross chapter or Fire Department for information.
- Learn your community's evacuation plan.

- Determine safe rooms to go to if you are not told to evacuate.
- Post emergency numbers by the telephone. During an emergency, only use the telephone when someone needs immediate assistance.
- Teach children their address and phone number.
- Note special assistance needed by people with disabilities.
- Prepare for family health needs (prescriptions, medical supplies)
- Plan not to leave pets behind. Locate a “pet friendly” shelter or location. (most emergency shelters for people do not accept pets). Consider care for livestock / farm animals.
- Learn terms used to describe emergency levels (advisory, watch, warning); learn types of emergency signals on air, radio and TV.
- Learn basic first aid and CPR. Contact local American Red Cross for classes.
- Establish a meeting place in the event of family separation.
- Identify check in contact that family will call if separated.
- Find out day care / school emergency procedures.

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR AN EMERGENCY

- Have home inspected to ensure compliance with fire and building codes.
- Repair defective wiring and large cracks in plaster.
- Obtain disaster insurance for home and personal property (if applicable)
- Secure important papers, lists and photographs of personal property in a bank safety deposit box.
- Buy ABC fire extinguishers (ask Fire Dept. for training). Keep accessible on each building level. Periodically check functioning.
- Install smoke detectors on each level outside sleeping areas, not in kitchens or bathrooms. Check functioning and vacuum out dust and dirt once a month. Change batteries yearly.
- Buy flashlights / emergency lighting. Avoid candles (fire hazard).
- Make house address / number clearly visible from the street.
- Bolt / fasten securely your water heater.
- Locate your home’s main water, electrical and gas shut-offs, and learn how and when to shut them off. Mark with brightly colored stickers or tape.

NOTE: IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911 AND PROCEED WITH FIRST AID / CPR IF NEEDED. TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

