



Knowing Is... Shelter from the Storm

Summer Storm Season: Plan, Prepare, and Prevail

Summer is here! While making the most of warm weather is certainly fun, there are also some precautions worth taking to ensure the safety of your loved ones and personal assets. To help you, we've compiled the following information and tips. Of course, if you need further information about your coverage or insurance needs, don't hesitate to give us a call or drop by your nearest office.

Planning ahead for potentially damaging and dangerous weather should be your first line of defense against it. Use the following tips from *disastersafety.org* to help you prepare for a severe weather event.

- Determine a safe area in your home (i.e. the basement or a windowless room or closet in the center of the house) and make sure all family members know to gather there in case of a storm.
- Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Designate an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite if you become separated.
- Keep important documents containing confidential information, including insurance policies, in your shelter area to prevent their destruction or loss during a storm.
- Create and store an emergency kit in your shelter area. Your kit should include at the very least drinking water, food you don't have to refrigerate or cook, first aid supplies, a portable NOAA weather radio, flashlights, batteries, blankets, prescription medications, extra car and house keys, credit cards and cash.
- Take video and photographs of the contents of your home and its exterior for your records—this is a great way to make any insurance claims you may have as a result of weather-related damage much easier.

If a high wind event such as a tornado or storm is imminent:

- Move anything in your yard that could become flying debris inside your house or garage before a storm strikes. If a tornado threatens, do this only if authorities have announced a tornado "watch." If authorities have announced a tornado "warning," go immediately to your designated shelter.
- Don't open your windows in high winds. You won't save the house, as once thought, and you may actually make things worse by giving wind and rain a chance to get inside.

Remember, in any emergency situation it is important to keep calm. The safest thing to do in any storm is to stay in your shelter area. Once the storm has passed, your first priority should be to ensure that anyone who is injured receives first aid and/or medical attention. When you do venture outside, be sure to watch for downed power lines.

Have a Safe, Stress-Free Summer — From the Employee-Owners at Kemner-Iott and Benz Insurance Agency



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