



# What to Do in an Emergency



## During a tornado:

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. They come from powerful thunderstorms. They appear as a funnel- or cone-shaped cloud with winds that can reach up to 300 miles per hour. They cause damage when they touch down on the ground. They can damage an area one mile wide and 50 miles long. Before tornadoes hit, the wind may die down, and the air may become very still. They may also strike quickly, with little or no warning.

**Look for the following danger signs:** dark, greenish sky — large hail — large, dark, low-lying cloud — loud roar, like a freight train



## During a hurricane:

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. They gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. Evaporation from the seawater increases their power. Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye." Hurricanes have winds at least 74 miles per hour. When hurricanes come onto land, their heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves can damage buildings, trees, and cars.



## During a thunder or lightning storm:

All thunderstorms are dangerous because every thunderstorm produces lightning. Lightning can kill or seriously hurt people. Thunderstorms are also dangerous because they can lead to flash floods.

Use the 30/30 rule! Go indoors if you see lightning and can't count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.



## During a Winter Storm/Extreme Cold:

Winter storms can range from a normal snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms bring dangerously low temperatures and sometimes, strong winds, icing, sleet, and freezing rain. One of the main concerns is that winter weather can knock out heat, power, and communication, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can have serious effects on an entire region. Icy roadways can cause serious accidents, and sometimes people die from being in really cold temperatures for too long.



## During Blackout/Power Outages:

Blackouts are a loss of power to an area. They could be due to problems at power stations, damage to equipment, or the overuse of energy in a particular area — like during a heat wave if everyone runs an air conditioner on high all day and night. We don't realize how dependent we are on power until we are without it. Power affects the electricity we get in our homes, as well as the water supply and transportation systems — from traffic lights to airplanes.



## During a house fire:

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States. But unlike other disasters, home fires can be prevented!

It's important to know this: **Fire is fast!** There is no time to gather anything or make a phone call. In just two minutes, a fire could kill you. In five minutes, a house could be swallowed in flames. **Fire is hot!** Heat and smoke could be even more dangerous than the flames. Breathing in really hot air could burn your lungs, and fire produces poisonous gases that can make you sleepy and unable to escape. **Fire is dark!** It can be hard to find your way out of your house in a fire. **Fire is deadly!** Fire uses up oxygen you need to breathe and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill.

For additional Fluvanna information, visit:

[www.fluvannacounty.org/services/emergency-services/](http://www.fluvannacounty.org/services/emergency-services/)