



Weather Emergencies

Weather Emergencies: It is best to be prepared for weather emergencies rather than wait for the last minute. Whether it is a tornado, hurricane, strong winds, etc. have a plan and get the following ready ahead of time:

Sirens: **There are NO sirens that will go off for warning of weather emergencies in Fairfield Glade or Crossville.**

Listen to the local radio stations to learn of watches and warnings issued.

Warning – a storm/tornado is imminent or has been spotted in your area. This is the time to go to your safe place and take your emergency kit and equipment with you. Remember that your safe place should be an inner room of your house, preferably with no windows and not a room with an outside wall.

Watch – indicates a storm is possible but not guaranteed.

TV networks such as ABC, CBS and NBC, as well as the Weather Channel, provide several storm alerts. Once an area has been identified as being under tornado warning or other weather emergency, these channels will cut into regular programming until the warning has expired.

NOAA Weather Radio – A weather radio is an excellent investment to alert you from tornado warnings to flash flood alerts. You need to pick the one that is best to meet your needs as different radios have different functions. These functions can include:

- Being portable so you can move it with you
- AC power or fully functioning battery operation
- Telescopic antenna
- Hands-free lanyard
- Built-in LED flashlight
- FM Reception: 87.5 to 108MHz
- AM Reception: 520 to 1710 kHz
- Convenient Blue LED Backlight for easy viewing in the dark
- Separate Advisory Watch and Warning Lights
- Access to all 7 NOAA channels

NOAA weather Radios can be classified into two different groups:

1. Weather Radios WITH Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)
2. Weather Radios WITHOUT Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)

The right radio for you can be set to go off for certain counties or the entire state. These weather radios can be purchased in Big Box stores such as Walmart or on-line.

Weather App for your cell phone – It is important to receive emergency notification of weather emergencies on your phone. There are several apps for both the Android phones as well as the iPhone that you can obtain from the App Store. These apps will alert you of various weather emergencies so you can shelter and be prepared. They include, but are not limited to:

Android

AccuWeather is free for Android and IOS
Weather Underground is free for Android and IOS
Dark Skies is \$4 for IOS
Carrot Weather is free for Android, \$5 for IOS
The Weather Channel is free for Android and IOS
Flowx is free for Android
Genmetric Weather is free for Android
Weather on the Way is free for IOS
Tornado by Red Cross
Cumberland County TN EMA for both Android and iPhone

iPhone

Radarscope
Hurricane by American Red Cross
The Weather Channel
Dark Sky
WeatherBug
Weather Underground
CARROT Weather
Weather Live
Tornado

Listen to the alert when it goes off. Take it seriously. **IF** there is time, make sure your phone is as charged as possible and near you so you can hear the alert, especially at night. If your phone is not charged enough, take your recharging cord with you and later, if you lose electric power, know which neighbors have a generator where you can recharge your device.

You can purchase a mophie to charge your phone when the electricity is off. You must keep them charged.

But remember that cell phones are only reliable if the cell towers are functional.

Smart Speakers for the Home – Your Smart Speaker such as Amazon Echo, Google Assistant, Google Nest, Apple Home Pod and others can advise you about severe weather just like your Smart Phones or Weather Radios. To enable weather alerts on your Amazon Echo device, just say, “Alexa, enable severe weather alerts.” She will replay that it is enabled and how to turn it off if you wish. Other similar devices like the Google Home or Nest and Apple Home Pod have similar procedures to enable this feature. Most use AccuWeather to receive these alerts for your area. Use your computer or tablet to find the procedure for your other devices.

WeathercallNexGen.com is a website that has various products that will provide notifications to landlines, cellphones, emails, and texts for severe weather conditions for a fee.

Build an Emergency Kit – Your kit should include: a three-day supply (minimum) of water and non-perishable food for each family member; first aid supplies; personal hygiene items; portable radio; flashlight; fresh batteries; basic tools, work gloves; portable lanterns; signaling device (such as an air horn), prescription medications; extra car keys, extra eyeglasses; cash; important contact numbers such as medical centers, insurance agents, utilities, neighbors and family members); copies of important documents (such as identification,

insurance policies, ownership certificates and banking information); car chargers for your electronic devices.

Plan for a safe space in your home – Especially in the case of a tornado, one is generally told to report to their safe place. You need to have thought that out beforehand. Usually, that is a place in the center of your house, away from windows or in a basement/crawl space if possible. If it is in your home, it could be a closet or bathroom or even a bathtub. Choose a room preferably **not** with an outside wall or window. Remember to stay away from windows, doors, garage and outside walls especially when the storm arrives.

Create and practice a plan of action for your family – Discuss where and how you will seek shelter during a storm, ensure that everyone is aware of the location of first aid kits and fire extinguishers, and choose a place for your family to meet if you get separated. Establish a contact person to communicate with concerned relatives, and ensure that you know where and how to shut off utilities at the main switches or valves in case of emergency.

Identify escape routes from your home or neighborhood – Pay special attention to hazards on both sides and above your escape route and be prepared with any additional equipment you may need such as a chain saw, safety ropes or a ladder. Remember that a small creek can turn into a serious water hazard during severe weather.

Secure top-heavy furniture that could topple over – Furniture such as bookcases and dressers should be secured to a wall. Before a storm arrives, move furniture away from doors and windows, if possible as you will have a clear path to escape if necessary.

Maintain your landscaping – Trim trees and shrubbery in your yard, removing weak branches and eliminating trees that could fall on your home during a storm. Falling trees and blowing debris in storms often cause fatalities and sever structural damage. Replace rock or gravel landscaping material in your yard with shredded bark, which won't cause damage if it is blown around by strong winds. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers additional information for protecting your property from strong winds.

"KEEP SAFE BY BEING PREPARED"

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