

ONCE THE FLOOD ARRIVES:

- Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- Look out for animals - especially snakes. Animals lose their homes in floods, too. They may seek shelter in yours.
- If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof.
- Take dry clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then, wait for help.
- Don't try to swim to safety; wait for rescuers to come to you.
- If outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there.

AFTER THE FLOOD:

- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to a radio or television and don't return home until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities.
- If your home, apartment or business has suffered damage, call the insurance company or agent who handles your flood insurance policy right away to file a claim.
- Before entering a building, inspect foundations for cracks or other damage. Don't go in if there is any chance of the building collapsing.
- Upon entering the building, don't use matches, cigarette lighters or any other open flames, since gas may be trapped inside. Instead, use a flashlight to light your way.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms and factories. If your home has been flooded, protect your family's health by cleaning up your house right away. Throw out foods and medicines that may have met floodwater.
- Until local authorities proclaim your water supply to be safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation vigorously for five minutes before using.
- Be careful walking around. After a flood, steps and floors are often slippery with mud and covered with debris, including nails and broken glass.



*For more information
regarding joining the
Menomonee Falls
Fire Department*

or

*programs offered by the
Menomonee Falls
Fire Department
Call 532-8823*

W140 N7801 Lilly Rd
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Phone: 262-532-8823
E-mail: fire@menomonee-falls.org
www.menomonee-falls.org/fire

MENOMONEE
FALLS FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Spring Weather Safety Tips



**MENOMONEE FALLS
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Spring Weather Safety

HAVE A DISASTER KIT CONTAINING:

- Flashlight, battery operated radio, extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sturdy shoes and work glove
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Bottled water
- Canned and non-perishable foods
- Checkbook, cash, credit cards, ATM cards
- Instructions on how to turn off home utilities
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.



BEFORE THE STORM:

- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors.
- Watch for signs of approaching storms.
- If a storm is approaching, keep a NOAA Weather Radio or AM/FM radio with you.
- Postpone outdoor activities if storms are imminent.
- Check on neighbors who require special assistance: infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Learn how to turn off water, gas and electricity
- Know the name of the county you live in and surrounding counties



DURING THE STORM:

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.
- Go to safe shelter immediately.
- Move to a sturdy building or hard top car. Do Not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. Use phones only in an emergency.
- Do not take a bath, shower, wash dishes or do laundry
- Turn off air conditioners. Power surges can overload the compressors.
- Draw blinds and shades over windows. Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT OUTDOORS AND NO SHELTER IS NEARBY:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles, but is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible; minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you're with a group of people, stay about 15 feet from each other.
- If you're playing an outdoor activity, wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike or thunder.

IF TORNADOES DEVELOP:

- If there is a watch or warning posted, falling hail should be considered as a real danger sign.
- An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado, even if a funnel is not visible.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.
- Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.
- Seek shelter immediately. Go to a windowless interior room; storm cellar; basement; or lowest level of the building.
- If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture or mattress, use arms to protect head and neck.
- If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in a car. Get out of your vehicle and find safe shelter.
- If no shelter is available, go outside and lie on the ground, if possible in a ditch or depression. Use your arms to protect your head and neck and wait for the storm to pass. Be alert for the flash floods
- **At Work** seek shelter on the lowest possible floor or a basement if available. Stairwells, bathrooms and closets are good spots. Stay away from windows. As a last resort, crawl under your desk.
- **At School** seek shelter in interior hallways, small closets and bathrooms. Stay away from windows. Get out of mobile classrooms. Stay out of gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with a large expanse of roof. Bus drivers should be alert for bad weather on their routes.
- **At The Mall** seek shelter against an interior wall. An enclosed hallway or fire exit leading away from the main mall concourse is a good spot. Stay away from skylights and large open areas.

AFTER THE STORM:

- Check on neighbors who may require special assistance: infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Avoid all downed power lines. Assume that all have live electricity.

IF SOMEONE IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING:

- Call for help. Call 9-1-1 or send for help immediately.
- The injured person does not carry an electrical charge, so it is okay to touch them.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid when appropriate.
- Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Call for help.

IF YOUR HOME IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING:

- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, or gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the buildings if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Take pictures of the damage--both to the house and its contents--for insurance purposes.

IF A FLOOD WATCH OR WARNING IS ISSUED AND TIMES PERMITS:

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades . . . they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.



IF YOU LIVE IN A FREQUENTLY FLOODED AREA, TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND STOCKPILE EMERGENCY BUILDING MATERIALS:

- Plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels, and sandbags.
- Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains.
- As a last resort, use large corks or stoppers to plug showers, tubs, or basins.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- In case family members are separated from one another during floods or flashfloods (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
- Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a flood or flash flood.
- Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, fire department, and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Be prepared to evacuate.

