

Damaging winds

ACTION CHECKLIST

Shelter inside a sturdy building away from windows when damaging winds threaten. Avoid trees, power lines and lightweight structures. Follow tornado warnings separately; straight-line winds can also cause severe damage.

[] Secure items beforehand

Bring loose items inside while conditions are calm; do not go out once winds are dangerous.

[] Use an interior room

Stay away from glass and large exterior openings.

[] Limit driving

High-profile vehicles are vulnerable; avoid routes lined with falling trees or debris.

[] Keep clear afterward

Assume downed lines are live and report them from a safe distance.

WATCH FOR

Do not attempt to clear a tree from a power line.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Wait for winds to ease in the best shelter you can reach without exposure. Keep a torch and shoes nearby for broken glass. If the building is failing, move to a safer reachable space without going beneath trees, loose roofing or wires.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/damaging-winds/>

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