

Thunderstorm

ACTION CHECKLIST

Go inside a substantial building or a fully enclosed hard-top vehicle when thunder is heard. Stay away from windows and monitor warnings for damaging wind, hail, tornadoes and flash flooding.

[] Get indoors

Open shelters, tents and trees do not protect from lightning.

[] Avoid conductive paths

Inside, avoid plumbing and plugged-in equipment during lightning.

[] Read new warnings

Move to an interior room for severe wind or hail; use a tornado shelter if a tornado warning is issued.

[] Wait before returning

After the last thunder, wait at least 30 minutes before resuming outdoor activity.

WATCH FOR

Every thunderstorm can produce lightning, even without a severe thunderstorm warning.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Use a substantial building or enclosed hard-top vehicle even when warnings cannot be checked. Avoid plumbing and wired electrical equipment during lightning. Watch for rising water and damaging wind without going outside to observe the storm.

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/thunderstorm/>

Thunderstorm · official guidance