

WEATHER ALERTS



North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Severe weather awareness week is held in April

A type of emergency often overlooked

Severe weather emergencies are often overlooked when it comes to people with hearing loss. There are a few weather alert systems that receive updates from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather bureau channels, and will indicate the specific type of weather alert and what level it is at. The systems are unique in that they also include accessories (strobe lights, bed shakers and simple text readouts) to ensure a person with a hearing loss is alerted immediately and have time to get to safety before severe weather hits.



Bed Shaker



Strobe Light



Text Read Out



Focus Blue Braille

For people who are Deaf-Blind or those with a hearing loss along with low-vision, special needs NOAA Weather Radio receivers may be equipped with special adaptations which convert the weather messages into large print and/or Braille version. Equipment with Bluetooth technology is proving useful for turning their cell phones and/or iPads into assistive technology.

Where to obtain information on special-needs NOAA Weather Radios?

Harris Communications

15155 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Voice: 800-825-6758
TTY: 800-825-9187
VP: 952-388-2152
Website:
www.harriscomm.com/

Maxi-Aids, Inc.

42 Executive Blvd.,
Farmingdale, NY 11735
Voice: 800-522-6294
TTY: 800-281-3555
Website:
www.maxiaids.com

Freedom Scientific

****Specific for Vision**
11800 31st Court North
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
Phone: 800-444-4443 US
Fax: 727-803-8001
Website:
www.freedomsscientific.com



Tornado sirens, emergency tones on TV or radio or a phone call from a neighbor are all ways people can hear about impending disaster because of severe weather, unless of course you have a hearing loss



Watch

Means there is a good chance of dangerous weather in your area. Be ready to act quickly if it changes to a warning.

Advisory

Means "less" severe type of weather conditions than a "warning" but caution is still needed.

Warning

Means dangerous weather has begun or is almost definitely coming in 24 hours. Be alert and stay indoors.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are free messages sent directly to your cell phone, warning you about severe weather, AMBER Alerts and threats to safety in your area. They are sent to you by your state and local public safety officials, the National Weather Service, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the President.

It's a new technology that may already be on your wireless cell phone or other wireless device. It will be no more than 90 characters and will provide a brief critical information about threat in your location or an AMBER emergency. Seek out additional information from other sources, such as radio or TV. Alert comes with a unique sound and vibration. Both repeated twice. It resembles a text message but it will not interrupt calls in progress.

To find out more about how your mobile device is configured, contact your local carrier or device manufacturer. Or check out www.ctia.org/WEA.

You can also download free weather apps or sign up for your favorite news station where you can get notice of things happening in your area as well as weather notices. Message and data rates may apply.



Accuweather



Weather Widget



3D Digital Weather Clock

On your cell phone, download from your local TV news station such as KMOT, KVLV, KFVR, WDAZ and WDAY

What to do?: SAFETY FIRST

Severe Thunderstorm

- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning.
- If warning is issued, take shelter. (*Picnic shelters, dugouts or bleachers are NOT safe.*)
- Stay inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. (Use battery-powered TVs and radios)
- If driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in vehicle and turn on emergency flashers until heavy rains ends.
- Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity.

Winter Weather

- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear mittens and a hat that covers your ears.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep feet warm and dry.
- Minimize travel. If you have to travel, have disaster supply kit in your vehicle.
 - ◆ *If your car gets stuck, stay with your car.*
- Winterize your car and keep gas tank full to keep fuel line from freezing.
- Bring pets inside during winter weather.
- Running water, even at a trickle, helps pipes from freezing.

Tornados

- Safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement or a small windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building. (*Avoid mobile homes*)
- If caught outdoors, get in a car with seatbelt on, seek shelter described above.
- If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now choices are:
 - ◆ *stay with car, put your head down below the window, covering with your hands or a blanket.*
 - ◆ *If you can get lower than the level of roadway, such as a ditch, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.*

Floods

- Be prepared to leave at moment's notice.
 - ◆ *have emergency kit and car packed to leave*
- Head for higher ground and stay there.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankle, stop, turn around and go another way.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn and go another way. (*Two feet of water can sweep a car away.*)

Get more weather related safety tips from Red Cross at www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library