

Severe Weather Planning For: Tyler County Residents

Have a Family Plan

It's important to plan now to protect your families, businesses, and property. Discuss evacuation plans with your family, friends and relatives BEFORE hurricane season begins, and review your plans from time to time. Here are some planning tips:

- **Start putting an emergency supply kit together and double check to ensure supplies are fresh.**
- **Make a checklist of what you must do before you leave and review it.**
- **Straight line wind storms, downburst rains & tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas. So it pays for individuals and families to plan what to do – well in advance.**
- **Basic preparedness plans should be in place at home, at work & at school and each family member or employee should understand the plan. When a severe storm or tornado strikes, there may be only a few seconds to react and find shelter.**
- **The first step in preparedness is to ensure you have a reliable method of receiving information including TV, radio, NOAA weather radio, plus a back-up system if one goes out. Battery powered equipment and extra batteries should be part of the plan.**
- **For home, work, or school, shelter areas should be designated; whether they are ground level windowless rooms, or interior hallways on the lowest floor. Protect yourself from flying debris with thick blankets, sleeping bags or mattresses.**
- **If you are in a vehicle, mobile home or portable classroom, move quickly to a strong building for shelter. If there is no shelter, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression. DO NOT take shelter with a high wide roof such as an auditorium, gym or shopping mall.**
- **Choose a person to telephone outside your city to let others know you are safe and choose a place for family members to meet if your neighborhood and home are damaged or destroyed. Remember that phone service could be disrupted, so have a back-up plan such as an assigned meeting place, use of pagers, e-mail or other technology that does not depend on phone lines. In case telephones and cell towers are not operational, you may want to make a list of contact information on paper that you normally store in electronic devices.**
- **If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, make reservations and confirm your reservations before you leave.**
- **Learn the evacuation routes from your area before storm season. Plan for delays and longer drive-times than normal.**
- **Call 2-1-1 to find out if you live in an evacuation area or you need transportation during a disaster.**
- **Plan what you are going to do with pets and livestock.**