

# Severe Weather Threat Today: Are You Ready?

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**CHICAGO** – With a forecast for severe storms, heavy rains, high winds, flooding and even the potential for tornadoes in the Ohio River Valley, it's important for residents to take action and know what to do to stay safe.

“Monitor local forecasts and prepare for the possibility of dangerous weather,” said FEMA Region 5 Regional Administrator Tom Sivak. “Identify your safe shelter locations and remain vigilant--especially for potential power outages and dangerous road conditions caused by possible downed power lines and flooding.”

- **Follow the direction of local and state officials and make sure to sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, become familiar with the warning tone.
- **Identify nearby, sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study and play.** Pay attention to weather reports and warnings and be ready to take shelter immediately, if necessary.
- **Make sure all mobile devices are fully charged in advance of the storm.** Plan for batteries and other alternative power sources to meet your needs in case the power goes out, such as a portable charger or power bank. Have flashlights for every household member.
- **Have a communications plan in place.** Ensure everyone in your household knows where to go, what to do and how to reconnect after a disaster.
- **Watch for fallen power lines and trees.** Report them immediately.
- **Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.**
- *After the storm and once you are safe, check on neighbors and friends to make sure they're okay.*

Find even more valuable tips to help you prepare for severe weather at [www.ready.gov/severe-weather](http://www.ready.gov/severe-weather) and download the free FEMA app.



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