

Plan - Practice - Monitor - Act

What is *Plan - Practice - Monitor - Act* ?

Plan - Practice - Monitor - Act is an effective, comprehensive approach to severe weather preparedness. Each element is a part of the whole. If any piece is missing, you don't have a complete pie, and you won't have the same result.



Plan

- **Develop a plan**
 - Identify secure shelters
 - How will you communicate with each other ?
 - Where will you meet if you get separated ?
 - Know where to get weather information
 - ✓ www.weather.gov/Lincoln OR mobile.weather.gov
 - ✓ Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts on your smart phone for Tornado and Flash Flood Warnings

Practice

- **Practice your plan at least twice each year**
 - At the VERY least talk about the plan
 - ✓ Pick a spot to take shelter
 - ◆ The lowest level, in an interior room away from doors & windows is best
 - ✓ Discuss how you will communicate
 - ◆ Texting is better than calling when using a cellphone!
 - ✓ Choose the spot you will meet

Monitor

- **Designate a Weather Watcher**
 - This is simply a person responsible for keeping up to date on weather conditions
 - Use MULTIPLE ways to keep up with the weather
 - ✓ Weather Alert Radio
 - ✓ Local TV & Radio stations
 - ✓ Social Media & Weather Web Sites
 - ✓ DON'T rely on Outdoor Sirens ALONE!!!

Act

- **ACT immediately when a WARNING is issued OR when hazardous weather threatens**
 - **Get In** your sturdy shelter
 - **Get Down** to the basement or lowest floor
 - **Cover Up** : Flying & falling debris causes the most injuries and fatalities during storms

Effective Severe Weather Plan Worksheet

Threats:

- Tornado
- Extreme Wind greater than _____ mph
- Flooding / Heavy Rain

Time needed to get everyone to safety / shelter: _____

Who will monitor the weather?

Designated Weather Watcher: _____

Criteria for initiating the plan: *(Consider time needed, neighboring counties, warnings, severe weather sightings)*

Warnings: _____

Reports: _____

Other: _____

Logistics of initiating the plan:

Who will initiate action: _____

How will action be initiated: _____

Shelter Areas: *(Safe-rooms are best; Otherwise interior rooms, minimize windows, maximize walls, protect from debris)*

Designated shelter areas: _____

Leaving the Shelter Area:

When: _____

Who decides: _____

Practicing the plan: *(Evaluate time needed, Suitability of shelters; Consider different times of day.)*

Which two calendar dates during the year: _____

A Sampling of Available Resources

Web Site Resources:

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety® : <http://www.disastersafety.org>

FEMA Safe Rooms: <http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms>

National Storm Shelter Association: www.nssa.cc

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/safety>

| Title and Publication # | Description |
|--|---|
| <u><i>Floods: The Awesome Power</i></u> | Full color brochure, produced by NOAA, FEMA and the American Red Cross. Includes information on floods, flash floods, preparedness, and safety. |
| <u><i>Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, and Lightning</i></u> | Full color brochure, produced by NOAA, FEMA and the American Red Cross. Includes information on preparedness and safety for all the threats of thunderstorms and tornadoes. |
| <u><i>Lightning Safety for You and Your Family</i></u> | Full color brochure, produced by NOAA, FEMA and the American Red Cross. Includes information on lightning and lightning safety. |
| <u><i>Winter Storms: The Deceptive Killers</i></u> | Full color brochure, produced by NOAA, FEMA and the American Red Cross. Includes information on preparedness and safety for all the hazards of winter. |

A complete library of downloadable NOAA/NWS publications is available at

<http://www.weather.gov/om/brochures.shtml>

| Title and Publication # | Description |
|---|--|
| <i>Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters</i> (FEMA 361) | Guidance manual for engineers, architects, building officials, and prospective shelter owners. It presents important information about the design and construction of community shelters that will provide protection during tornado and hurricane events. For the purpose of this manual, a community shelter is defined as a shelter that is designed and constructed to protect a large number of people from a natural hazard event. The number of persons taking refuge in the shelter will typically be more than 12 and could be up to several hundred or more. |
| <i>Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your House.</i> (FEMA 320) | Residential saferoom guidelines, generally for less than 12 people. Includes building plans. |
| <i>Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry</i> (FEMA 141) | A step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response and recovery for companies of all sizes |
| <p>Enter the FEMA publication number above at the following website: http://www.ready.gov/publications</p> | |

A complete library of downloadable FEMA publications is available at www.fema.gov/library.