

## SPRING/SUMMER STORM SAFETY

Spring and summer weather can be unpredictable. When severe weather hits unexpectedly, the risk of injury and death increases, so planning ahead makes sense. Prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes as if you know in advance they are coming, because in the spring, they very likely will.

Spring is the time of year when many things change—including the weather. Temperatures can swing back and forth between balmy and frigid. Sunny days may be followed by a week of stormy weather. Sometimes extreme weather changes can occur even within the same day.

Summer weather brings more lightning, hail (as shown below), flash floods, and tornadoes. Knowing what to do when one of these storms occurs will allow everyone to enjoy outdoor activities more and the planning you do may save your life.

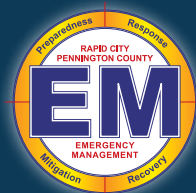


June 18, 1967

A tornado touchdown occurred in Rapid City limits on Father's Day in 1967 when a small twister dropped out of the sky with little thunder and no rain. It briefly made ground contact on Mount Rushmore Road and picked up the roof of Town



& Country Inn and dropped it on another nearby motel. It then skipped along to the northeast through Robbinsdale and tore up a few nearby homes throwing cars about and tearing off shingles before it disappeared into the clouds over the airport.



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Rapid City-Pennington  
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@penncoem2

Safety Tips for You  
and Your Family

# Spring/Summer Storms



# Keep An Eye On The Sky

At signs of an approaching storm...towering thunderheads, darkening skies, lightning and increased wind...tune in your portable or vehicle radio and listen for the latest weather information.

Know the difference between a WATCH and a WARNING.

## WATCH:

Severe weather is possible within the designated watch area. Be alert!



## WARNING:

Severe weather is imminent. Take necessary precautions immediately.



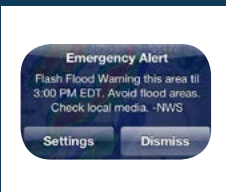
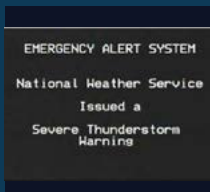
A NOAA weather radio will notify you when a Severe Storm Warning has been issued. These warnings include hail, heavy thunderstorms, flash flooding, and tornadoes. When activated, the radio will emit a siren-like wail to notify you that important weather information is about to be broadcast. The wail is loud enough to wake most persons from a sound sleep and may be the only method of notification when sleeping. The information broadcast is direct from the National Weather Service and will usually include steps you can take to protect yourself from the impending storm.

## EMERGENCY MESSAGING

TV and Radio  
EAS Notification

Weather Radio  
All-Hazards

Wireless  
Emergency Alert



Outdoor Warning Sirens

Public Warning Messages

### Public Warning Messages

Get warnings when you need it and how you want it.

Registration is simple. You pick the delivery method: text, email or phone call.

[www.rcpcem.com](http://www.rcpcem.com)



Spring and summer storms, while impressive in their beauty, can be extremely dangerous, especially if you are caught out in the open. They can produce lightning, hail, heavy rain and tornadoes. At the first sign of an approaching thunderstorm, prepare yourself to seek shelter.

## LIGHTNING

If there is a threat of lightning:

### OUTDOORS:

- Move to a substantially-constructed building (one with electrical wiring and plumbing) or hard-topped vehicle. Partially-enclosed buildings are not safe.
- Lightning typically strikes the tallest object. Do NOT stand under a tall isolated tree, on a hilltop, or in a clearing. Go to a low area like a ravine, gully, or valley.
- Get off lakes, out of swimming pools, and away from beaches.
- Remove shoes with metal cleats; put down golf clubs, metal baseball bats, and backpacks. Stay away from metal fences, bleachers, clotheslines, pipes, rails, and tents with metal frames.

### INDOORS:

- Stay off porches and away from windows and doors.
- Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.
- Avoid using corded telephones except for emergencies.
- Do not use electrical appliances.
- Avoid contact with water and plumbing, dishes, laundry, shower, etc.

## TORNADO

Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms appearing as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling, dangerous winds. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Tornadoes in South Dakota are not common, but they are also not rare...they can and do occur in our area.

Whenever a tornado warning has been issued and/or the public warning sirens sound, seek shelter immediately and turn your radio or TV on to a local station for information.

**IN HOMES:** Seek shelter in the basement for the greatest protection. In homes without basements, seek shelter in the central part of the house, in a small room on the lowest floor, like a bathroom, closet or hallway. Protect yourself from flying debris with pillows or blankets. Stay away from windows and exterior walls. Do NOT open windows.

**IN SHOPPING CENTERS:** Go to a designated shelter area, not to your vehicle.

**IN SCHOOLS:** Follow advance plans and go to the designated shelter area. Stay out of auditoriums, gyms and other structures with open roof areas.

**IN OFFICE BUILDINGS/HOTELS/MOTELS:** Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor or to a designated shelter. Avoid windows, skylights

and other areas containing glass structures. Use the stairs, not the elevator. Leave large rooms with high open ceilings, large windows and skylights, such as gymnasiums, church sanctuaries or industrial buildings.

**IN VEHICLES:** Do not try to drive away from a tornado or take cover under a highway overpass. If there are no buildings nearby, leave your vehicle and find a low area away from it that is clear of potential debris, such as trees and power lines. Lie flat and cover your head.

**IN OPEN COUNTRY:** Go to a nearby ditch, ravine or gully, lie flat and cover your head. Watch for rising water from the heavy rains that often accompany a tornado.

**IN MOBILE HOMES/TRAILERS:** Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to tornadic winds and should be evacuated. Mobile home residents should plan to take shelter in a permanent structure or with friends, neighbors or family. Allow sufficient time to leave your mobile home and arrive at your shelter area. If you don't have time, lie flat in a ditch or ravine away from the mobile home and protect yourself with pillows and/or blankets.

*There Is No Guaranteed Safe Place During A Tornado!*