



# Be Prepared for Severe Weather

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**S**pring is typically known as severe weather season in Texas. Keep in mind, however, that severe weather can happen at any time through the year. We've had tornadoes occur in September, October and December as well.

Here are some ways to prepare for severe weather:

## Watch vs. Warning

Know the difference. A "watch" means the potential exists for the development of severe weather based on the type of watch. For instance, if a thunderstorm watch is issued, it means conditions are right for a thunderstorm to form in the forecasted watch area.

A "warning" means that severe weather is imminent or already occurring based on radar or weather spotter observation. Remember, when a thunderstorm warning is issued, pay attention for rapidly changing conditions. A tornado watch or warning can be issued quickly after a thunderstorm warning has been issued by the National Weather Service.

## Warning Methods

Have several ways to receive weather alerts; don't just depend on one method. The following are ways to receive information regarding severe weather threats:

- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your cell phone. Be sure you have this turned on under Notifications
- Weather apps on your cell phone
- Your favorite TV network
- Weather radio which has battery backup in case of power loss
- Nixle. Text your Zip Code to 888777 to receive weather alerts from the City

## Emergency Preparedness Kit

Plan ahead and prepare an emergency preparedness kit before disaster strikes. This is basically household items you may need in an emergency. Being prepared means having your own supplies to last at least 72 hours. Pack these items in a bag or tote for safe keeping in a

place that is easily accessible. Items may include, but are not limited to:

- Flashlight/extra batteries
- Weather radio
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Water
- Hand sanitizer
- Cash (ATMs may be down due to power loss)
- First-aid kit
- Blankets
- Extra change of clothes
- Heavy-duty shoes



Everyone has different needs so consider what you need on a daily basis and pack the following while taking kids, seniors and pets into consideration:

- Prescriptions/medications
- Extra eye glasses/contacts/solution
- Baby/child items like diapers, formula, toys, games to keep them occupied
- Items for pets, including leash, bowl, food, water, toys, treats

Remember to replace expired items and update the kit according to the changing needs of your family/pets.

Go to [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit) for more information on creating your own emergency disaster kit.

## Outdoor Warning Sirens

Do NOT rely on outdoor warning sirens to alert you of severe weather at night or while indoors. These are used to warn those who are outdoors of impending danger and that they need to go indoors and get further information on the situation that is occurring. Outdoor warning sirens are not meant to be heard by those who are indoors. This is why it's critical to have more than one method to receive alerts. •

