

According to NOAA

# When thunder roars, go indoors!

## Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 2 - 7, 2015

Severe Weather Awareness Week is a time for all St. Louis Area residents in Illinois and Missouri to prepare for tornados and thunderstorms.

**Prepare for tornados!** All Illinois residents should participate in the statewide tornado drill at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. Missouri residents should participate in their statewide tornado drill at 1:30 p.m. on the same day. When residents hear the sirens, they should move to the safest place in their home, school or business.

Typically, the safest place is in a building's basement away from windows. If there is no basement, go to a windowless interior room such as a closet, bathroom or interior hall on the lowest level of the building. Once in a safe place, residents should crouch as low as possible to the floor and cover their heads with their hands. Learn more about tornado preparedness at <http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>.

**Be informed about the dangers of thunderstorms.** Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which is one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. On average, lightning kills approximately 51 people a year and injures hundreds of others. Lightning can strike as much as 10 miles away from the rain area of a thunderstorm. While people commonly take protective actions during the most dangerous part of thunderstorms, many leave themselves vulnerable to being struck by lightning as thunderstorms approach, depart, or are nearby. Death and injuries from lightning can be PREVENTED.

**When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter:** a house or other substantial building offers the best protection from lightning. Otherwise a metal-topped vehicle with windows up can keep you safe from lightning. Stay in a safe shelter location for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

While inside:

- Do not use corded phones, computers and / or other electrical equipment including washers and dryers.
- Unplug all electronics and turn off air conditioners.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Learn more about severe weather preparedness including how to make a plan, what your emergency kit should include, and how to be more informed at All Ready STL, [www.allreadystl.com](http://www.allreadystl.com).

### Sign Up for Severe Weather Alerts!

<http://stormaware.mo.gov/alerts/warning-systems/>

