

# What you need to know during severe inclement weather

## Before Severe Weather

Prepare! Don't Let Severe Weather Take You by Surprise

Find out what you can do before severe weather strikes. Preparation is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts. An excellent resource can be found at:

<https://www.ready.gov/floods>

- **Be Weather-Ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. Check the Weather-Ready Nation for tips.
- **[Sign Up for Notifications:](#)** Know how your community sends warning. Camp Pendleton utilizes the "Big Voice" siren/audio system located throughout the Base. A siren will sound followed by a voice/audio message in the event of an emergency/severe weather event. You can also get notifications from Camp Pendleton's [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) pages.
- **Create a Communications Plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. Pick a safe room in your home such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Get more ideas for a plan at: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- **Practice Your Plan:** Conduct a family severe weather drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a damaging wind or large hail is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when severe weather warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Have trees and branches trimmed near your house. If you have time before severe weather hits, secure loose objects, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for severe thunderstorms. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt during severe weather.

## What to Do During Severe Weather

Find out what you can do when severe weather strikes. Acting quickly is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

- **Stay Weather Ready:** Continue to listen to local news and [Camp Pendleton's web](#) & social media sites to stay updated about severe weather watches and warnings.
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [Twitter](#)

- **At Your House:** Go to your secure location if you hear a severe weather warnings. Damaging winds or heavy rain could be approaching. Take your pets with you if time allows.
- **At Your Workplace or School:** Stay away from windows if you are in a severe thunderstorm warning and damaging wind is approaching. Do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums or auditoriums.
- **Outside:** Go inside a sturdy building immediately if severe weather is approaching. Taking shelter under a tree can be deadly. The tree may fall on you. Standing under a tree also put you at a greater risk of getting struck by lightning.
- **In a Vehicle:** Being in a vehicle during severe weather is safer than being outside; however, drive to closest secure shelter if there is sufficient time.

### **What to Do After Severe Weather**

What should you do when the lightning and heavy rain stops and it looks like the severe weather is over?

- **Stay Informed:** Continue listening to local news or [Camp Pendleton's web](#) & social media sites to stay updated about severe weather watches and warnings. More severe thunderstorms could be headed your way.
- **Contact Your Family and Loved Ones:** Let your family and close friends know that you're okay so they can help spread the word. Text messages or social media are more reliable forms of communication than phone calls.
- **Assess the Damage:** After you are sure the severe weather threat has ended, check your quarters for damages. Contact authorities if you see power lines down. Stay out of damaged buildings.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** If you come across people that are injured and you are properly trained provide immediate first aid and then contact emergency services for assistance.

**What to Do During a Flood:**

- If flooding occurs, go to higher ground and avoid areas subject to flooding.
- To report flooding, debris, mudslides, and other related water issue call: (760) 725-4683/4324
- Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams or drive through flooded roadways.
- If water rises in your home, go to the top floor, attic, or roof.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio, watch local news or Camp Pendleton's web & social media sites for the latest storm information.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so.
- If you've come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.