



The first week of March is **Severe Weather Preparedness Week**.

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. The **City of Rolling Meadows** is an accredited Weather-Ready Ambassador. As ambassadors, the City is committed to inform the community of opportunities and information to prepare and respond to severe weather events in the community. Together with our partners at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service, we are providing the following information to help protect you during the Spring and Summer months.

Plan Ahead and Be Prepared. Take a few moments to review these important facts and develop an action plan with your family.



## **SPRING AND SUMMER SEVERE WEATHER FACTS**

- Illinois ranks fifth in the U.S. for the most tornadoes per square mile.
- On average, 50 tornadoes occur each year in Illinois.
- There were 50 tornadoes reported in Illinois in 2017, which resulted in three fatalities, 17 injuries and more than \$12 million in property damage.
- Straight-line winds and downbursts from a severe thunderstorm can cause more damage than nearly 75 percent of the tornadoes that occur in Illinois.
- Lightning is to blame for more than 100 deaths in Illinois since 1960.
- Flooding has been a factor in 49 deaths in Illinois since 1995 – more than the number of fatalities caused by tornadoes during the same period.
- Many flood-related rescues, injuries and fatalities have been the result of people in vehicles attempting to drive across flooded roads.

**Illinois** experiences diverse weather patterns throughout the year. You should be aware of the types of weather that affect Illinois, the different advisories that precede hazardous weather, and the preparations to take for severe conditions.

## Learn More

-  [Extreme Temperatures](#)
-  [Floods](#)
-  [Thunderstorms](#)
-  [Tornadoes](#)

## Thunderstorms

**Storms develop quickly and can occur with little to no warning. Heavy winds and lightning caused by storms can cause extended power outages, uprooted trees, landslides, and downed or broken utility lines. Additionally, heavy rains can cause flash floods.**

**Familiarize yourself with the following terms to stay alert and prepared.**

- **Tornado Watch** - conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.
- **Tornado Warning** - a tornado has been reported by spotters, or National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists have determined that one is about to form in the next several minutes. Go to a substantial shelter immediately. Listen for the activation of the outdoor warning sirens. An alert signal is a 3 to 5 minute steady siren.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** - conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms containing large hail and damaging wind.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - large hail and/or damaging wind has been reported by spotters, or is about to develop. Go to a substantial shelter immediately.

## During the storm

- Avoid handling metal, electrical equipment, telephones, bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks, because electric current from lightning can travel through wires and pipes.
- If you are outside, take cover in a stable facility. Avoid taking shelter under trees.
- Tune in to local TV/radio channels for emergency advisories and instructions.
- Avoid walking through water that has seeped into your home; it may contain hazardous materials.
- If you are asked to evacuate your home, follow instructions given to you by emergency personnel.

- Call the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500 or City Hall 847-394-8500 to report fallen trees or tree limbs, or clogged catch basins.
- Call Public Works or the Police non-emergency at 847-255-2416 to report flooded streets.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them to 9-1-1.

## After the storm

- Assess your immediate environment.
- Report fallen trees, flooded streets, or damaged public utilities to the proper department.
- Stay tuned to local weather stations for updated information.

## For Additional Information

-  [Lightning Safety - Illinois Emergency Management Agency \(IEMA\)](#)
-  [Severe Weather Preparedness - Illinois Emergency Management Agency \(IEMA\)](#)
-  [NEW - Preparing for Thunderstorms – American Red Cross](#)

[Turn Around Don't Drown Video](#)

[Ways to Get Warnings](#)

[Thunderstorm Types](#)



Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills an average of 47 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured. This website will teach you how to stay safe and offer insight into the science of lightning. You'll find animated books about lightning, safety tips for all kinds of situations, games for kids and resources for teachers. You'll learn about lightning victims and survivors. Explore our site, and come and visit often! En Espanol

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

- [Lightning Safety Brochure](#)
- [U.S. Lightning Deaths in 2018: 2](#)
- YouTube: [Lightning Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#): ASL and Closed Captioned
- YouTube: [Lightning Safety Tips](#)
- [Lightning Safety When Working Outdoors](#): OSHA Factsheet
- [What You Need to Know: Tips for Safety](#)
- [Analysis of Lightning Fatalities](#)
- YouTube: Don't Catch the Big One: [PSA1](#), [PSA2](#)
- [How People are Struck by Lightning](#)
- [Tornado, High Wind and Hail Safety Site](#)