



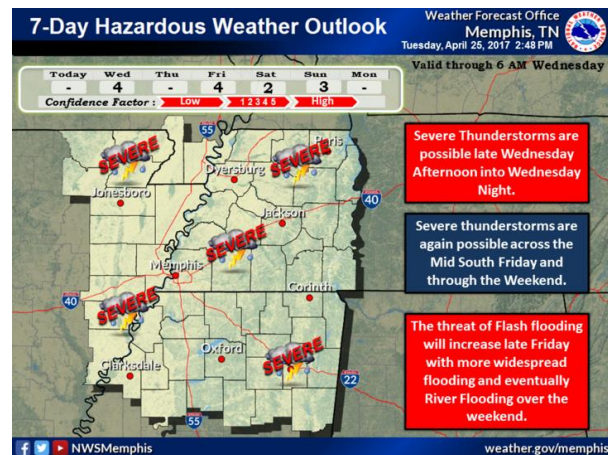
For Immediate Release
April 26, 2017

Prepare for Severe Thunderstorms

“Stay alert! The National Weather Service predicts severe thunderstorms will develop this afternoon and into the night. **Large hail and damaging winds** are the primary threats. Severe thunderstorms are also possible Friday night and this weekend with a potential for **flash flooding**,” said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness. “Your best defense is awareness, knowing where to shelter, and having a plan.”

Severe Thunderstorm Safety Tips:

- **Monitor Forecasts and River Levels:** Have a NOAA all-hazards radio and download mobile weather apps. Look for darkening skies, lightning, heavy rain, and high winds.
- **Communications Plan:** Ensure family members have emergency numbers programmed in cell phones. Keep cell phones charged.
- **Postpone Outdoor Activities:** If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. When thunder roars, go indoors!
- **Outside:**
 - Shelter in a sturdy building or hardtop vehicle if no sturdy building is available.
 - Avoid open fields and tall trees.
 - Stay away from downed power lines.
- **Home:**
 - Have a go kit (flashlight, batteries, NOAA radio, bottled water, non-perishable food).
 - Secure outdoor objects that can blow away.
 - Avoid using corded phones and unplug electrical equipment.
 - Avoid contact with plumbing.
 - Stay away from windows and doors.
- **Driving:**
 - If you are stuck in traffic, stay in your car with your seatbelt on.
 - Pull to the shoulder and turn on emergency flashers.
 - Avoid touching metal.
 - Do not drive through flooded roads. Remember, turn around - don't drown!
 - Have alternative routes planned.



Resources: MLGW Outage Hotline: 901.544.6500. MLGW Emergency: 901.528.4465
MLGW Outage Map: www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap
National Weather Service: www.weather.gov and www.fema.gov

End of Release