



News Release

Shelby County Office of Preparedness



For Immediate Release
November 15, 2017

“Storm Ready” for Fall

“While severe weather can occur any time in the Mid-South, spring is considered the “first severe weather season,” said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness. “But did you know there is a secondary severe weather season? Fall! October through December is the counterpart to spring. Straight line winds, outages, excessive rains, flash flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are all possible. Please review your safety plans and be storm ready this fall.”

Fall Weather Safety Tips:

Stay Weather-Aware: Know the 7-day forecast.

- Download weather apps to mobile devices.
- Have a NOAA radio with a battery back-up.
- Know the terminology:
 - **Advisory or special weather statement:** Changing weather may cause an inconvenience. Review safety plans.
 - **Watch:** Severe weather is possible. Stay alert!
 - **Warning:** Severe weather is imminent. Lives and property are in danger. Seek shelter!



Family Communications Plan:

- Ensure cell phones are charged. Program emergency numbers in cell phones.
- Enable wireless alerts on cell phone.
- Designate 2 meeting places: outside the home and elsewhere in the community.
- Have an out-of-town contact to call if you get separated.

Practice Sheltering-in-Place or Evacuating:

- Know alternative routes out of your neighborhood. Note locations of sturdy shelters and higher ground. When you see water on the roads, remember to “turn around, don’t drown!”
- Designate “safe places” for thunderstorms. There is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. “When thunder roars, go indoors!” A storm shelter or basement is the safest place. If not possible, go to the lowest floor of a sturdy building, a small windowless room with the most walls around it. Have a helmet, pillows, blanket, and a NOAA radio.
- Keep vehicles serviced and gas tanks full. Make sure your auto emergency kit is up to date.

Emergency Kits:

Have a kit for home, work and every vehicle with enough supplies to sustain you and your pets for 7 days.

Caption: Flash flooding on November 23, 2016 on Old Austin Peay during a thunderstorm.

Resources: <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>, www.ready.gov

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is “Storm Ready” certified by the National Weather Service.

End Release

PREVENT • PROTECT • MITIGATE • RESPOND • RECOVER

Shelby County Office of Preparedness / Homeland Security / Emergency Management Agency

Dale Lane, Director

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