

LEWISVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

May is SEVERE WEATHER MONTH. We are subject to varied degrees of weather from hurricanes to ice storms. As we approach the summer months, the potential for severe weather increases. Thunderstorms can produce high winds, large amounts of rain and tornados. All of these can result in damage, injury or tragedy. The Lewisville Public Safety Advisory Committee encourages you to take steps to protect your family and your business. Preparation and knowledge are your best defense.

PREPARATION:

Have a Plan:

- **SAFETY AREA:** Determine a safe location in your home or business to seek shelter. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** How to communicate with family members or co-workers before and after the severe weather occurs. Remember, cellular systems may be out of service.
- Practice your plan so all persons know what to do.

Have an Emergency / Disaster Kit handy:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if town officials advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

STAY TUNED FOR STORM WARNINGS

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- **WATCHES** and **WARNINGS** are issued by the National Weather Service for
 - Severe Thunderstorms
 - Tornados
 - Flash Flooding
- Know what a **WATCH** and **WARNING** means:
 - A **WATCH** means a severe weather is possible in your area.
 - A **WARNING** means severe weather has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.

WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO

IN HOMES OR SMALL BUILDINGS:

- If you have a tornado saferoom or engineered shelter; go there immediately.
- Go at once to a windowless, interior room; storm cellar; basement; or lowest level of the building.
- If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.

- Get away from the windows.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.
- If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.
- Go to the basement (if available) or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect you from flying debris.

IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, OR SHOPPING CENTERS:

- Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses. Crouch down and cover your head using your arms to protect head and neck.
- If the business has a designated Safety Area, go to that area.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, or shopping malls.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.

IN CARS OR MOBILE HOMES:

- *ABANDON THEM IMMEDIATELY!!* Get out of them immediately and take shelter in a nearby building. Most deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you are in either of those locations, leave them and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter.
- Never try to out-drive a tornado in a car or truck.
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

IF NO SUITABLE STRUCTURE IS NEARBY:

- If possible, get inside a building.
- If shelter is not available or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.

AFTER A TORNADO

- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid when appropriate.
- Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Call for help.
- If you smell gas, do not turn on any appliances or switches. This includes using phones, flashlights or a cell phone.
- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, or gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the buildings if you smell gas or chemical fumes.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.