

Preparing for Severe Spring Weather

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The long winter is ending here in Southern Minnesota, which brings us to spring - a time for fresh grass, blooming flowers, and warmer weather. With the change in seasons, now is a good time to make sure that you are prepared for the severe weather that often comes with spring. Weather can be unpredictable this time of year, so taking precautions can keep you and your loved ones safe.

Preparing for severe weather can start with simple steps like gathering emergency supplies. Items like non-perishable foods, bottled water, batteries, first aid kit, and weather radio can be included in an emergency kit. Keeping kits in both your home and car can help in an emergency. Families should also make communication and evacuation plans. These plans are crucial to make sure each person knows who to contact and where to go if they find themselves in severe weather.

Thunderstorms often cause most of the severe spring weather, according to the CDC. Lightning and the chance of tornadoes increase during springtime. During these storms, another way to be prepared is to take shelter when needed. The best place to take shelter is in an inside room, without windows, on the lowest level of your home. If you are unable to seek shelter inside, staying away from wide open spaces and tall objects like trees and light posts may help keep you safe.

Staying informed about severe weather risks and in the aftermath of a severe weather event in our community is one last way to prepare. You can find alerts, local emergency personnel plans, detours, and recovery efforts through different forms of communication like social media outlets, radio, news, and through emergency notification systems. Brown County utilizes *Nixle* which provides information through telephone, text messaging, and email. You can sign up for this by texting "BROWNCOUNTY" to 88877 or online at <https://local.nixle.com/register/>.

Preparing emergency kits, communication, and evacuation plans, seeking shelter, and knowing when risks are present will help you stay safe during severe weather in spring and year-round.

You can learn more about preparing for spring weather at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/springweather/index.html> .