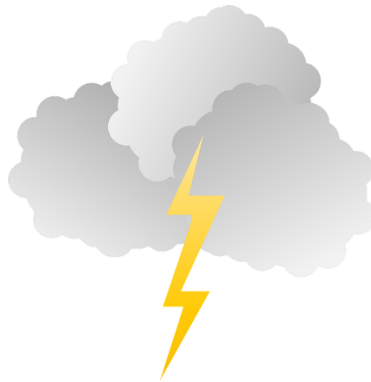


Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, and flash flooding just to name a few.

Know your Risk and understand the types of hazardous weather that can affect Peoria County.

## Thunderstorm and Lightning



All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include strong winds, hail, and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.



To prepare for thunderstorms, you should do the following:

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage
- Postpone outdoor activities
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning

Facts about thunderstorms:

- They may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines
- Thunderstorms typically produce heavy rainfall for a brief period
- Warm, humid conditions are highly favorable for thunderstorm development

### Facts about lightning:

- Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall
- Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately

### Familiarize yourself with the following terms:

- Severe Thunderstorm Watch – tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning –issued when severe weather had been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property of those in the path of the storm

