



## LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

March 2019  
Volume FY19 Issue 6



### Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terroristic hazards.

### Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

### Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.



### IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

**EMERGENCY**  
**Fire-Police-Ambulance**  
**911**

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LA National Guard Joint Operation  
Center 888-278-8748

GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross  
1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management  
Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

National Poison Control Center  
1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-7233



### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This is Red Cross Month, so you guessed it, our bulletin will focus on the Red Cross and discuss Spring Severe Weather Preparedness.

Since their founding by Clara Barton on May 21, 1881, the American Red Cross has been dedicated to serving people in need. They received their first congressional charter in 1900 and to this day they are tasked by the federal government with providing services to members of the American armed forces and their families as well as providing disaster relief in the United States and around the world.

Are you familiar with the classic images of Red Cross nurses helping American Soldiers and civilian war victims during World War I? In fact, as you read this Red Cross staff and volunteers are still deploying alongside America's military.



I hope you find this information useful.  
Always Remember "Be Prepared".

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LANG EM WEB PAGE:  
<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>



### **MARCH 2019 ...is Red Cross Month**

Each year, the president of the United States proclaims March “Red Cross Month”. The Red Cross’ commitment to the military never waivers. It helps members of the military, veterans and their Families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service and has served more than 1 million military Families since 9/11.

Its volunteers provide home comforts and critical services on bases and in military hospitals around the world: support military Families during deployments and emergencies; and continue serving our nation’s veterans after their service ends.



March was first proclaimed Red Cross Month in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to raise awareness of the organization and its humanitarian mission.

The Red Cross responds to an average of more than **62,000** disasters every year.

**90% of Disasters** that the Red Cross Responds To are home fires

**95% of Disasters** of our disaster relief workers are volunteers

**ARC responds to an emergency every 8 minutes.** No one else does this; not the government, not other charities. From small house fires to multi-state natural disasters, the ARC goes wherever they are needed, so people can have clean water, safe shelter and hot meals when they need them most.

**The work doesn’t end after disaster strikes.** After the emergency phase of a response has been completed, the ARC turns to helping people recover and addressing lingering community needs. Working together with community leaders, government and relief agencies, the ARC organizes and executes recovery strategies that include:

- Providing emergency financial assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster
- Distributing financial assistance for households that need extra help in the long-term
- Providing grants for community-based recovery services





### Blood Needs & Blood Supply


Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.




1 donation can potentially  
**Save up to 3 lives.**



Every **2 seconds** someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.



Less than **38 percent** of  
the population is eligible to  
give blood or platelets..



Blood and platelets **cannot**  
be manufactured; they can  
only come from volunteer  
donors.

### Facts About Blood Needs

- Approximately 36,000 units of [red blood cells](#) are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 7,000 units of [platelets](#) and 10,000 units of [plasma](#) are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million [blood components](#) are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.
- The [blood type](#) most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. [Sickle cell patients](#) can require [blood transfusions](#) throughout their lives.
- According to the American Cancer Society, about 1.7 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their [chemotherapy treatment](#).
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

### Blood Supply Statistics

The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Each new donor helps us meet patient needs.

- Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood.
- 13.6 million whole blood and red blood cells are collected in the U.S. in a year.
- About 45% of people in the U.S. have Group O (positive or negative) blood; the proportion is higher among Hispanics (57%) and African Americans (51%).
- Type O negative red cells can be given to patients of all blood types. Because only 7% of people in the U.S. are type O negative, it's always in great demand and often in short supply.
- Type AB positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all blood types. Since only 3% of people in the U.S. have AB positive blood, this plasma is usually in short supply.
- Red blood cells must be used within 42 days (or less).
- Platelets must be used within just 5 days.





### American Red Cross

#### What Can You Do?

The great thing about the American Red Cross is that it offers every one of us the opportunity to make a real, concrete difference in the world. It's our chance to help someone somewhere in their moments of greatest need, and there are many ways to make this difference just by donating a few hours of time during the year.

**Donate blood:** Blood donation takes just one hour of your time and can be done no more frequently than every 56 days – surely you can spare five hours a year to save lives. If you think your donation doesn't matter, consider this: one American needs a blood transfusion every two seconds, and a single one of these recipients, like a severely-injured car accident victim, may need as many as 100 transfusions. In fact, your donation can be a major turning point in the struggle to end the blood shortage. "If one more percent of Americans begin to give blood, blood scarcity would be gone soon," reported BloodBanker.com. Check your eligibility to donate blood and make an appointment today! If you're not currently eligible to donate, help the cause by volunteering to work at a blood drive, checking in donors, or host a Red Cross blood drive with your community group.

**Donate time:** Are you a pet owner? Great! You can spend quality time with your pet and make a difference providing pet therapy in local medical facilities and nursing homes. Start by taking free animal assisted therapy courses through the Red Cross. If you've got more time and an adventurous spirit, consider volunteering as an international disaster responder.



**Get educated:** The American Red Cross offers multiple first aid and safety courses. Knowledge really is power – it can even save lives. Take courses to be a lifeguard, a babysitter, or simply a prepared responder to medical emergencies. You can even take your service a step farther by becoming certified to teach first aid and safety courses to others in your community.

#### Replace Your Batteries & Update Disaster Kit

Daylight Savings Time starts on March 10, 2019. We will spring ahead and lose an hour of sleep this time of year. Did you know that you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors and weather radio twice a year? If you make a habit of doing this when the time changes you will always remember. It is very important to have fresh batteries in these devices in case of a power outage when you would need them to work during a storm or a fire.

It is also a good time to refresh your family disaster kit. Change out stored food and water supplies every six months. Re-think your needs every year update your kit as your family's need





### Severe Thunderstorms



#### What is a Severe Thunderstorm?

A severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces one or more of the following: hail that has a diameter of one inch (quarter-size) or larger, winds greater than or equal to 58 mph, and tornadoes. About 10% of all thunderstorms in the United States meet severe criteria.

Severe thunderstorms can occur at any time of the year, although the most common time of occurrence is during the spring months of March, April and May. In addition, pulse-type thunderstorms that occur during the summer months can produce high winds, frequent lightning, and torrential downpours.

A secondary season of organized severe weather occurs during the fall in November and December.

#### What is the Difference between a Watch and a Warning?

A severe thunderstorm/tornado watch means that **conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms/tornadoes to develop.** These are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK, typically before severe weather develops. When under a watch, pay attention to rapidly changing weather conditions.

A severe thunderstorm/tornado warning means that a **severe thunderstorm/tornado has either been indicated on radar or witnessed by storm spotters.** Your local NWS office issues severe thunderstorm warnings when severe weather is developing or occurring. Warnings tend to be less than an hour and cover a smaller area than a watch (i.e. 1-2 counties or less). During a warning, activate your severe weather safety plan.



New Orleans, Louisiana  
Severe Thunderstorm producing Tornado  
February, 2017

#### Safety Tips

- **Have a Plan.** Prepare ahead of time so you and your family know what actions to take when severe weather occurs.
- **Get indoors!** There is no safe place outdoors during a thunderstorm.
- **Stay informed!** When severe weather threatens, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, local television and radio stations, or the NWS homepage online at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for updated weather information. Click on the office that serves your area.
- **Know what county you are in.** When a warning is issued, the threatened areas will be identified by the counties that contain the warned thunderstorm.
- **Have a NOAA Weather Radio.** This is the best way to receive information concerning the latest watches and warnings directly from the National Weather Service, especially at night when TV's and radios are turned off.



### Damaging Winds: Not all Wind is a Tornado

A common misconception regarding severe weather is that if there was strong wind that did damage, it must have been a tornado. Not all wind damage occurs from tornadoes. In fact, some of the worst damage is not associated with tornadoes at all. There are several types of damaging wind storms that can occur in Louisiana.



Damaging wind, often also referred to as straight line winds, tends to be more common than tornadoes. Damage from these winds account for half of all severe reports in the continental United States. Wind speeds can reach up to 100 mph and produce a damage path extending for hundreds of miles, in association with both squall lines and supercell thunderstorms. While these winds can occur any time of the year, climatologically the number of damaging wind reports increases during the spring months and peaks during the summer months in Louisiana.

Meteorologists can determine if the cause of the damage was from Straight line winds or a tornado simply by looking at the direction the damage is laid out in. Straight line wind damage will push debris in the same direction the wind is blowing (hence the creation of the term straight line). Tornado damage will scatter the debris in a variety of different directions since the winds of a tornado are rotating violently. To reduce the damage from straight line winds, it is important to secure objects that can be blown by the wind and to keep trees well pruned. Tree branches falling on cars or houses produce a significant amount of damage in high wind events. Also make sure you are in a safe place when straight line winds strike such as in the interior of a brick home.

Another type of straight line wind that occurs is called a derecho. Derechos are created by the merging of many thunderstorm cells into a cluster, or solid line, extending for many miles. These tend to be fairly fast moving lines of thunderstorms that may travel 500 to 600 miles. Derechos typically occur in the summer months when complexes of thunderstorms form over the Great Plains. They are particularly dangerous because the damaging winds can last a long time and cover a large area. One such event occurred in June 2012, when a derecho plowed through the Mid-South, bringing 80 mph winds and structural damage to portions of the Louisiana.

A third type of damaging wind that can occur are microbursts. While straight line winds tend to occur in weather systems that are widespread, microbursts are fairly localized. A microburst is a small, concentrated downburst that produces an outward burst of damaging winds at the surface. Microbursts are generally small (less than 4 km across) and short-lived, lasting only 5-10 minutes, with maximum wind speeds up to 100 mph. There are two kinds of microbursts: wet and dry. A wet microburst is accompanied by heavy precipitation at the surface, whereas dry microbursts occur with little or no precipitation reaching the ground. Microbursts tend to be a little more common during the spring and summer months in Louisiana, but can also occur in the fall and winter.



Wet Microburst - 1991 Photo by *William Bunting*

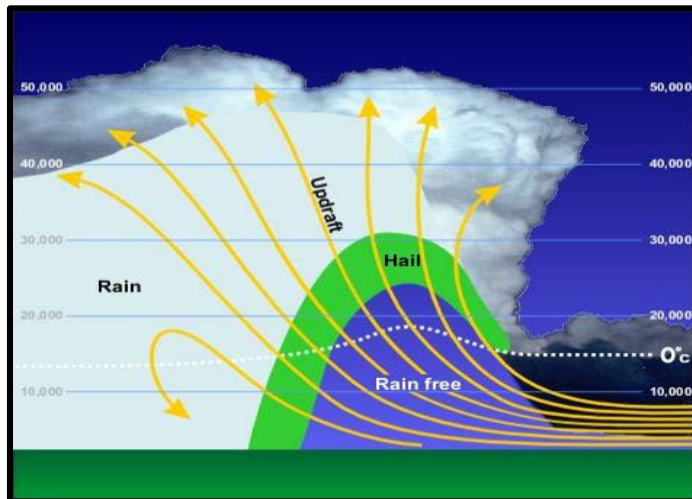




### Severe Thunderstorms—Hail

#### How Does Hail Form?

Hail forms when water droplets are drawn into an area of strong upward moving air, known as an updraft, of a storm. Once the water droplets are transported above the freezing level, they combine with tiny airborne particles, such as dirt, salt, volcanic ash, etc., and freeze on contact, forming tiny ice particles. These ice particles are light enough that they remain suspended in the cloud, where they undergo processes that allow them to combine with other super-cooled water droplets and grow into hail stones. Once the hail stones are heavy enough to overcome the upward force of the updraft, they fall out of the cloud and can inflict significant damage to automobiles, buildings, crops, and even people.



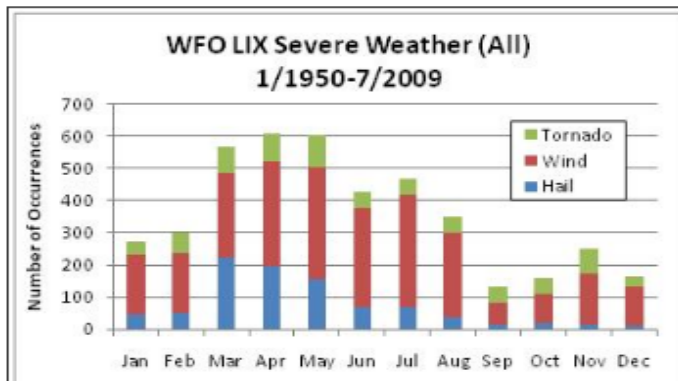
#### Measuring Hail

It's often difficult to get an accurate measurement of hail diameter, especially when it's falling. The table below helps observers estimate the size of hail based on the average diameter of common items. When in doubt, play it safe and wait until the thunderstorm has moved away before going outside to measure the hail's size.

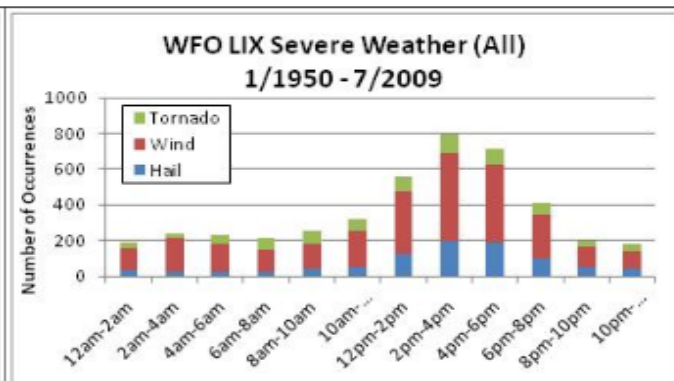


#### Hail Size Estimates

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Pea.....            | 1/4 inch     |
| Penny.....          | 3/4 inch     |
| Nickle.....         | 7/8 inch     |
| Quarter.....        | 1 inch       |
| Half Dollar.....    | 1 1/4 inches |
| Ping Pong Ball..... | 1 1/2 inches |
| Golf Ball.....      | 1 3/4 inches |
| Tennis Ball.....    | 2 1/2 inches |
| Baseball.....       | 2 3/4 inches |
| Tea Cup.....        | 3 inches     |
| Grapefruit.....     | 4 inches     |
| Softball.....       | 4 1/2 inches |



Severe weather can happen at any time of the year, but it is most common during the months of March, April, and May in Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi.



Severe weather can also happen at any time of the day, but it is most common during the afternoon hours in Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi.



### Flooding and Flash Flooding are the top weather related killers!



Did you know that flash flooding is the second leading cause of weather related fatalities, based on a thirty year average? In 2017, flood fatalities accounted for twice as many fatalities as lightning, tornado and hurricanes combined!

**FLASH FLOODING:** Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or up to six hours after excessive rainfall, with a dam or levee failure, or with a sudden release of water held by an ice jam or mud slide. Flash floods can wash out roads and destroy buildings and bridges. Because flash floods happen in a short period of time (less than six hours after the causative event) they are more life threatening than other types of flooding. Areas most susceptible to flash flooding are mountainous streams and rivers, urban areas, low-lying areas, storm drains, and culverts.

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when flash flooding has been reported or is imminent. It focuses on specific communities, creeks or streams, or other geo-graphic areas where flooding is imminent or occurring.

A **FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY** is issued when there is confirmation of an immediate threat to life and property, many times in the form of water rescues or evacuations, due to rapidly rising water levels from either extremely heavy rainfall over an area or a dam failure.

**RIVER FLOODING:** This type of flooding is caused by an increased water level in established watercourses, such as a rivers, creeks, or streams. River flooding is slower to develop than flash flooding (more than six hours after the causative event); however, some smaller creeks and streams have a short lag time between the runoff from heavy rain and the onset of flooding. On the other hand, it may take several days for a flood crest to pass downstream to points on major rivers such as the Pearl and Mississippi rivers. The NWS issues river flood warnings when rivers are expected to rise above flood stage. Persons in the warned area are advised to take necessary precautions immediately. River stages and crest forecasts are given for selected forecast points along with known flood stages for each forecast point. While there is usually more advanced warning time with river floods than with flash floods, persons should be familiar with the flood prone areas they live and work in, and must know what action to take and where to go if a flood occurs. Advance planning and preparation is essential.



**FLOOD WATCHES:** The NWS issues a Flood Watch when conditions are anticipated that could result in either flooding or flash flooding within a designated area. Persons in the watch area are advised to check flood action plans, keep informed, and be ready to take action if a warning is issued or flooding is observed.



**FLOOD SAFETY RULES:** Follow these tips to stay safe during flood conditions...When a warning is issued get out of areas subject to flooding. These may include dips, low spots, stream beds, drainage ditches and culverts. If caught in low areas during flooding, go to high ground immediately.

Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas. A rapidly flowing stream or ditch can sweep you off your feet or even carry your car or truck downstream.

Never drive through a flooded area as the road bed may be washed away. Play it safe! If you encounter a flooded road - **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!**

Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood conditions, and never drive around a barricaded road.

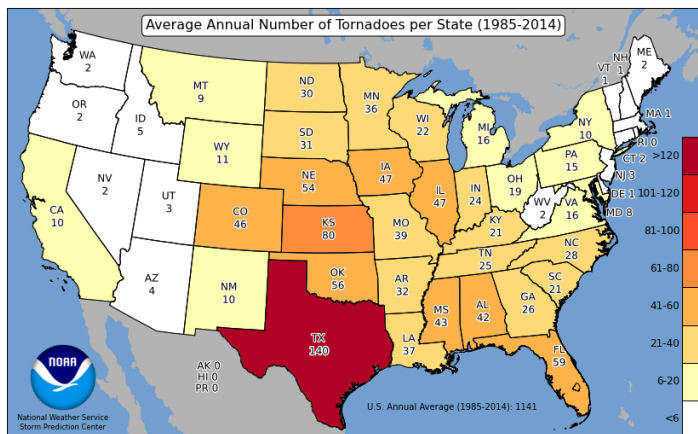
Most flood deaths occur at night and when people become trapped in automobiles that stall in areas that are flooded. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. The rising water may engulf the vehicle and the occupants inside. Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams or creeks during threatening conditions.

**When a FLASH FLOOD WARNING is issued for your area, act quickly to save yourself. You may only have seconds!**





### Tornadoes



### What is a Tornado?

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a storm cloud to the ground. Some conditions that are conducive for tornado formation include warm, moist, unstable air, strong atmospheric winds that increase in speed and change direction with height, and a forcing mechanism to lift the air. When a combination of these factors comes together just right, tornadoes form. The most common time of year for tornado formation in Louisiana is during the spring months of March, April, and May, with a secondary tornado season in November. Tornadoes can occur at any time of day and at any point during the year given the right environment. Many tornadoes occur at night in Louisiana, especially during the fall and winter months.

### Tornadoes and Car Safety

Being prepared for severe weather and tornadoes is important no matter your location, but this is especially critical if you are in a car when a tornado approaches. The winds from a tornado are strong enough to lift a car and toss it a far distance. Tornadoes can and do cross major highways and interstates, as occurred during the April 24, 2010 tornado. This tornado crossed two interstates as well as at least two heavily traveled highways.

Every year, several people die from being in a car during a tornado. In 2015, one person died in northern Mississippi during the December 23 tornadoes and nine died in cars as a result of a tornado that struck Dallas, Texas on December 26th. In 2011, 18 people were killed in cars during tornadoes, including one in northern Mississippi during the April 27th outbreak.

If traveling, make sure to adhere to the following safety tips regarding being on the road during severe weather:

- Always plan ahead. Check the weather forecast and if severe weather is expected in your path of travel, consider delaying your trip or altering your times of travel.
- Listen to live, local radio as a way to get warning information. Many radio stations will broadcast warnings within their listening area. Otherwise, consider bringing a portable weather radio and ensure that the WEA alerts are activated on your phone.
- Be aware of your surroundings and make note of any potential shelters along your route.
- Never take shelter under highway overpasses and bridges!



Van tossed on its side in Louisville, MS by an EF4 tornado on April 28, 2014. Photo by NWS Jackson, MS

### Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF Scale)

| EF Rating      | Wind Speeds  | Potential Damage Threats   |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| EF 0 (weak)    | 65-85 mph    | Light damage, shallow rooted trees pushed over, some damage to gutters or siding.          |
| EF 1 (weak)    | 86-110 mph   | Moderate damage, mobile homes overturned, roof surfaces peeled off.                        |
| EF 2 (strong)  | 111-135 mph  | Considerable damage, large trees uprooted or snapped, mobile homes destroyed.              |
| EF 3 (strong)  | 136-165 mph  | Severe damage, trains overturned, well built homes lose roofs and walls.                   |
| EF 4 (violent) | 166-200 mph  | Devastating damage, well built homes leveled, cars thrown.                                 |
| EF 5 (extreme) | Over 200 mph | Incredible damage, well built homes disintegrated, automobile-sized objects thrown >300ft. |



### Lightning The Underrated Killer



Photo by Patricia McCarthy

#### **EVERY THUNDERSTORM CONTAINS LIGHTNING.**

Lightning is an incredibly powerful electrical discharge, containing up to 100 million volts of electrical charge and capable of reaching 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Cloud to ground lightning is the result of incredible differences in electrical charge which forms within thunderstorms as well as between thunderstorms and the earth's surface. Recent science suggests that ice in thunderstorms is key to creating the massive charge differences which lead to lightning. Thunderstorm up-drafts and downdrafts work to separate smaller ice particles from larger hail stones within the storm. As this happens many of the ice pieces collide resulting in a separation of electrical charge. The higher part of the storm contains primarily positively charged small ice crystals, with negatively charged larger chunks of ice down low. As the storm moves across the earth a pool of positively charged particles gathers near the ground. Eventually a brief electrical circuit is created as a negatively charged "step leader" descends from the storm toward the ground and eventually connects to the positive charge on the ground. The extreme heating of the air with lightning causes a rapid expansion of the air around it, leading to thunder. The sound of thunder will travel away from lightning at a speed around 1 mile every 5 seconds. If you can see lightning and hear thunder at your location you are not safe. If you hear thunder within 30 seconds after seeing lightning your life is in immediate danger.

#### **Lightning Safety Rules - Outdoors**

- **Seek shelter** inside a house, large building or an all metal vehicle with the windows rolled up (avoid convertibles or open top cars). It is the metal frame that protects from lightning, not the tires.
- **If your hair stands on end and your skin tingles, lightning is about to strike. Take cover immediately!**
- When boating, or in the water, head for shore and get into a shelter or vehicle.
- Once you hear thunder, stop your outside activity immediately and head for safe shelter!

#### **AVOID**

- Large trees, hilltops and other high places. Don't be the tallest object!
- Chain link fences and any other metal fences like those around ball parks and play grounds.
- Sports dugouts and open park pavilions.
- Motorcycles, scooters, golf carts, small metal sheds, bicycles, tractors and farm equipment that does not have an enclosed metal cab.

#### **Lightning Safety Rules – Indoors**

- **Stay away from windows.** Avoid telephones and electrical appliances (wires connecting to these devices run outside of the home and act as lightning rods). Don't wash dishes or take a shower. The pipes will conduct electricity.
- **Unplug computers** and other sensitive electrical devices (time permitting) since surge suppressors may not protect these items if lightning hits close to the home.
- **Remember, there is no truth to the old myth that "lightning never strikes the same place twice."**
- **If a person is struck by lightning, there is no residual charge left on the body.** The quick application of CPR may maintain vital body functions until medical help can be obtained.



A lightning strike caused  
Extensive damage to this  
Driveway  
Photo by Chris Curlee

**WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**



## MARCH EVENTS

|          |                          |            |
|----------|--------------------------|------------|
| 5 March  | Mardi Gras               | Statewide  |
| 10 March | Daylight Savings (Start) | Nationwide |
| 17 March | St. Patrick's Day        | Nationwide |
| 20 March | Spring Begins            | Nationwide |

## Message from OPSEC

**Be Aware!**  
Criminals, terrorists and spies scan the Internet and social media to collect information on potential targets. How much information are you providing them about you, your job, or your family? Posting too much personal information (data, photos or videos) on social media makes their job EASY by giving them the pieces to the puzzle!

**THINK B4U POST**

**Practice OPSEC!**

**MARCH 2019**

The graphic features a blue background with a grid of puzzle pieces. Each piece is labeled with a different type of personal information: Response Plans, Security Vulnerabilities, Pin Codes, Limitations, Private Matters, Routines, Intentions, Travel Plans, Money Issues, Capabilities, Unit Deployment Information, Birthdates, Activities, and Opinions. The central text 'THINK B4U POST' is written in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom, it says 'Practice OPSEC!' in yellow and 'MARCH 2019' in white.