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sudden or flash flooding in low-lying and coastal areas.

- Choose a rendezvous. When a severe storm strikes, you might be separated from members of your family who are at home, work or school. Avoid unnecessary worry and travelling by arranging now to have a family meeting place or system of communication after a storm to ensure no one is lost or in need of help.
- Ensure mobility afterwards. Always have a fairly full tank of gasoline in your car. Filling station pumps may not operate for several days after a storm.

### **When a severe storm threatens**

- During the season in which storms are likely to occur in your area, listen to a local radio or TV station for warnings and advice. Have your battery-powered radio handy: electrical power may fail.
- If you have time, board up your windows with securely fastened lumber, or close storm shutters. You can also use tape to strengthen windows. Use strong bracing to secure outside doors, but open doors and windows slightly on the side of the house away from the storm to help equalize pressure and thus

reduce damage. Remember to stay away from windows and doors to avoid flying glass and debris.

- Secure anything that might be blown around or torn loose, both indoor and out. Flying objects such as garbage cans and lawn furniture can damage property and injure people. Storing belongings indoors can also protect against damage from hail.
- Avoid travelling. You won't want to be caught without shelter. Protect your automobile by slightly lowering windows and setting brakes. If your garage is sturdy, store cars there.
- Never venture out in a boat. If you spot bad weather while boating, head for shore immediately. Check forecasts before going out, and listen to weather reports while boating.
- If you are advised by officials to evacuate, do so. Take your emergency kit and supplies with you. You will also need flashlights and batteries, infant care items, and personal documents and identification for each family member. Before you leave, shut off electricity to reduce fire hazard.