

# Fact Sheet

## Feuille de renseignements



Ministry of Community Safety  
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire  
et des Services correctionnels

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## Tips for Dealing with High Winds and Severe Rainfall

When high winds and significant amounts of rainfall are expected, Emergency Management Ontario advises the public to follow these safety tips.

### Before the storm

- Listen to your local radio station for the most up-to-date storm information.
- Store or tie down all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, lawn ornaments or anything else that may blow around.
- If possible, trim dead or rotting branches that might be especially susceptible to high winds and rain. Check the drainage around the house to reduce the possibility of flooding after a heavy rain.
- Have a meeting place arranged or some way of communicating with family members who may be at work, school or away from home when a storm hits.
- Have a supply of water, food, clothing, blankets, medication and first-aid and tool kits as well as flashlights, batteries and a portable radio.

### During the storm

- If winds become extremely high, take shelter in a basement, storm cellar or a closet beneath stairs. If none of these are available, sit underneath a sturdy piece of furniture on the ground floor in the centre of the building away from outside walls and windows. Be sure you discuss the shelter area with your family.
- If you are outdoors, take shelter immediately - preferably in a building. If there is lightning and you cannot get inside, lie in a depressed area such as a ditch or culvert, but never under a tree. If caught in the open, do not lie flat on the ground - sit in a frog position and lower your head.
- Do not approach any downed power lines. If you are in your car and a power line falls on it, remain in your car. Do not attempt to get out until emergency crews arrive to help.

- Avoid driving through flooded roads and underpasses. The water may be a great deal deeper than it looks and you could get stuck. Also avoid crossing bridges if the water is high and flowing quickly.
- Use caution when driving because traffic lights may not operate. If the traffic lights are out treat the intersection as a four-way stop.
- Do not use 9-1-1 unless it is a genuine emergency.
- Listen to local radio for emergency information.
- Use proper candleholders. Never leave candles unattended and keep them away from combustible materials.
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbours. If you need assistance yourself, contact neighbours for help.
- If there is a power outage, keep your fridge and freezer shut unless absolutely necessary. A full freezer can keep food frozen for 24-36 hours if the door stays shut.
- Don't use charcoal, gas barbecues or home generators indoors. They give off deadly carbon monoxide.

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