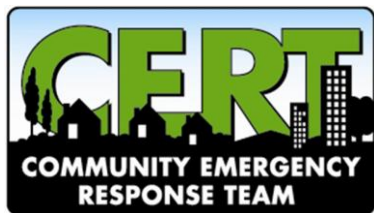


Be Safe Be Prepared

*If your local government advises
evacuation of your area*

DO SO IMMEDIATELY

*Know the location of your local
Emergency shelter.*



Make your plans and preparations for an emergency the subject of a family discussion.

Share your family's plan with friends and relatives.

All emergency preparedness is a team effort for everyone in the neighborhood and community.

Knowing the facts is the best preparation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.maine.gov/mema

www.fema.gov

www.redcross.org

www.citizencorps.gov

www.ready.gov

**Oxford County EMA
And
Rumford Emergency
Management**

**151 Congress Street
Rumford, Maine 04276
www.rumfordfire.com**

**oxctyema@megalink.net
www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/**



Thunderstorms, Lightning, and Tornadoes

**Oxford County Emergency
Management Agency and
Rumford Emergency
Management**



*Prepare*Respond*Recover*Mitigate*

Phone: 207.364.2901

Thunderstorms, Lightning, and Tornadoes



What should I expect in Severe Summer Storms?

- ⚡ **Tornadoes** – Maine averages 2 tornadoes a year, bringing with them high winds that can uproot trees
- ⚡ **Lightning** – occurs with all thunderstorms and takes an average of 80 lives a year in the US
- ⚡ **Strong winds** – Straight line winds can be in excess of 100 mph and can cause damage equal to a small tornado
- ⚡ **Flash Flooding** – The **NUMBER 1** cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms
- ⚡ **Hail** – Can cause major property damage if large enough in size

WATCH: Severe Weather is possible within the designated watch area. Be alert!

WARNING: Severe weather has been reported or is imminent. Take necessary precautions



Be Safe

Lightning:

- ⚡ Avoid outdoor activities. If outside during a storm, move to a sturdy building or car. If sturdy shelter is not available, move to a hard top car and keep the windows up. Avoid touching any metal.
- ⚡ Stay away from tall objects, such as towers, fences, or telephone poles.
- ⚡ Do not use the telephone or electrical appliances during a storm, they can conduct electricity!
- ⚡ Do not take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm.
- ⚡ If you are outside, take shelter under shorter trees in an area not subject to flooding. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. DO NOT lie down!

Flash Flooding:

- ⚡ Avoid walking, swimming or driving in flood waters.
- ⚡ Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, or culverts. If it is moving swiftly, 6 inches can knock you off your feet. Only two feet can carry away a car.
- ⚡ If you come upon flood waters, turn around and go the other way.

For more information visit
<http://www.noaa.gov>



HOW FAR AWAY IS THE THUNDERSTORM?

Count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder. Divide this number by 5 to determine the distance to the lightning in miles.

Practice the 30/30 rule: When you see lightning, count to 30. If you hear thunder before you reach 30, go inside. Don't go back outside until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.