

# ***Flooding and Flash Flooding***

## **Turn Around...Don't Drown!**

- ◆ Last year in Wisconsin, two people were killed as a result of flooding.
- ◆ Many floods occur along streams and rivers. You can determine your risk by knowing your proximity to the water.
- ◆ Urban areas have a risk for flash floods due to increased runoff from buildings, roads and parking lots. Low spots, such as underpasses and basements, can become death traps.
- ◆ Dam failures have played a deadly role in the history of flash flooding. Be aware of dams upstream from your location. Earthen dams and associated embankments are more easily compromised by heavy rainfall.
- ◆ When camping or hiking near a stream or river, listen to the latest weather forecasts and keep away from the water if thunderstorms are expected. If a warning is issued or flooding is observed, move to higher ground.
- ◆ Do not attempt to walk or drive through a flooded roadway or intersection. Only six inches of fast-flowing water can knock an adult off their feet. And it takes just two feet of moving water to float a vehicle. Turn around, don't drown!
- ◆ Beware of flooding potential along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the wake of a line of strong thunderstorms with high winds that move across the lake. The winds push water to the east shoreline, which then rebounds to the west shore as a flood wave called a "seiche."



## ***Flooding Myths and Truths***

**MYTH:** A 100-year flood occurs only once every 100 years.

**TRUTH:** The 100-year flood is an average. There is a 1% chance that a 100-year flood will occur in any given year.

**MYTH:** Flash floods occur only along flowing streams and rivers.

**TRUTH:** Flash floods can occur in urban areas where no streams are present.

**MYTH:** Homeowners insurance policies cover flooding.

**TRUTH:** Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their policies do not cover flooding. Contact your insurance company or agent to buy flood insurance.

**MYTH:** Larger vehicles, such as SUVs and pickups, are safe to drive through flood waters.

**TRUTH:** Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks. If you come to a water-covered road or intersection, **turn around, don't drown!**

# Lightning Safety for Coaches and Officials

## Lightning Kills...Play it Safe!

- ⚡ All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous. In an average year, lightning kills nearly 50 people in the U.S. Since 2005, lightning has killed eight people and injured at least 30 in Wisconsin.
- ⚡ Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- ⚡ If you hear thunder, you are in danger! Anytime thunder is heard, the storm is close enough to pose an immediate threat to your location.
- ⚡ Have a lightning safety plan. Designate a safe location before the event starts. Have specific guidelines for suspending the activity so that everyone has time to reach safety.
- ⚡ Prior to a practice or outdoor event, check the latest forecast. If thunderstorms are expected, consider postponing activities early to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- ⚡ If you hear thunder, suspend your activity immediately and instruct everyone to get to a safe place. Enclosed buildings provide the best protection. Avoid sheds, open shelters, dugouts, bleachers, and grandstands. If a sturdy building is not nearby, a hard-topped metal vehicle with windows closed will offer good protection. Do not crouch or lie down—continue moving to a place of shelter.
- ⚡ If boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter.
- ⚡ Do not resume activities until 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder was heard.



## Lightning Myths and Truths

**MYTH:** If it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning.

**TRUTH:** Lightning can strike outside of rain. If you hear thunder, the storm is close enough to pose a threat.

**MYTH:** Rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on vehicles will protect you from lightning.

**TRUTH:** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

**MYTH:** People struck by lightning carry an electric charge and should not be touched.

**TRUTH:** Lightning-strike victims carry no charge and should be attended to immediately. Call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance.

**MYTH:** "Heat lightning" occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat.

**TRUTH:** Heat lightning is a term used to describe lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard.

# ***Tornado Safety at Home, Work, or at Play***

## **Have a Plan at Home, at Work, and When You're Away**

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement, and get under a sturdy table or the stairs. A specially-constructed “safe room” within a building offers the best protection.
- If a basement is not available, move to a small interior room on the lowest floor and cover yourself with anything close at hand: towels, blankets, pillows. If possible, get under a sturdy table, desk or counter. Put as many walls as possible between you and the storm. Stay away from windows.
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter, get into a vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have two options as a last resort:
  - Stay in the vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows.
  - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the roadway, exit the vehicle and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a mobile home and go to the designated storm shelter or the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building.
- Make sure you have **multiple ways** to receive weather information. A NOAA Weather Radio, access to local TV and radio stations, and smart phone apps can keep you informed when severe weather threatens.



### ***Tornado Myths and Truths***

- MYTH:** Areas near lakes, rivers, and hills are safe from tornadoes.  
**TRUTH:** No place is safe from tornadoes. The tornado that struck Door County in August 1998 formed on the waters of Green Bay and moved onshore, causing over \$5 million in damage.
- MYTH:** The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to explode as the tornado passes overhead.  
**TRUTH:** Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.
- MYTH:** Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.  
**TRUTH:** Leave windows alone. The most important action is to immediately go to a safe shelter.
- MYTH:** People caught in the open should seek shelter under highway overpasses.  
**TRUTH:** Take shelter in a sturdy, reinforced building if at all possible. The winds of a tornado may actually increase in the tight space of an overpass, increasing the chance for injury.

***Don't be caught surprised!  
Always have a way to receive the very latest  
forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service.***