THE FLOOD HUB

A QUICK GUIDE TO THUNDERSTORMS

A thunderstorm is a number of sudden, electrical charges resulting from unstable atmospheric conditions. The electrical charges cause bright flashes of light and loud, trembling sound waves, known as thunder and lightning.

TOP TIPS

In preparation for a storm:

- Secure any loose, external objects such as garden furniture,
- which could be blown into windows.
- Close and securely fasten doors and windows.
- Park vehicles in a garage or away from buildings, trees and walls.
- Ensure your flood kit is fully stocked and in an accessible place.

During a storm:

- Stay indoors and keep doors closed.
- Do not repair external damage caused by the storm whilst it is still happening.
- If out walking, avoid standing in water and seek shelter in an enclosed building or vehicle.
- Do not drive unless completely necessary.
- Take care when driving on bridges or on high, open roads and be aware of side winds - delay your journey or find an alternative route.
- Do not drive in floodwater.
- Keep all your pets inside throughout the storm to reduce stress.

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Potential effects of thunderstorms:

- Damage to buildings
- Travel disruption
- Power cuts
- Flash flooding
- Distress to pets
- Loss of telecommunication
- In rare cases, death

After a storm:

- If any electrical or telephone cables have been blown down or are still hanging, be careful
- not to touch them.
- Make sure that any vulnerable neighbours or relatives that you know of are safe and assist
- them with arranging repair work if necessary.
- Report any fallen trees or power lines.

If your area has a number of vulnerable residents, it may be a good idea to develop a community resilience plan. This will ensure that their wellbeing is checked upon and highlights any assitance that is required during a storm or flash flood. As lightning can cause power cuts, this could be a particular problem for those with medical problems who need access to medication, therefore it is important to note the names and contact details of those residents.

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