



## 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.

#### 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.



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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

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 assistance 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.