

WEATHER ALERTS

IRIS

- Sign up for weather alerts through IRIS on our webpage to receive a call, text, and/or email alert when severe weather threatens the area.

Radio and Television

- Tune into your local radio or television station for the latest weather and for when the severe weather has passed.
- 1320AM (KLWN), 92.9FM (The Bull), 105.9FM (KISS FM), Channel 6 News.

Weather Radio

- Weather radios are set to alert you when watches and warnings are issued.
- These can be programmed to alert you for single or multiple counties in your area.

Mobile Alerts

- Download your favorite weather app and receive alerts through text and/or email when severe weather threatens the area.
- Some cell phones feature the Weather Emergency Alerts (WEA). Check with your provider to see if your phone has this feature.

Social Media

- Connect with official organizations or agencies, like us, on social media who share severe weather information and updates.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

- Douglas County has numerous sirens throughout the county. These are activated when the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning.
- The outdoor warning sirens are intended to provide warning to those who are outside. You will most likely not hear them indoors, and they should not be your only source of warning.

Contact Us

ONLINE:

www.Douglas-County.com

EMAIL:

emdept@douglas-county.com

PHONE:

785-832-5259



FACEBOOK:

Douglas County, KS—Emergency Management
www.facebook.com/dgcoem



TWITTER:

@dgcoem
www.twitter.com/dgcoem



Douglas County Emergency Management
111 E. 11th Street, Unit 200 Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 832-5259
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Severe Weather Safety

in Douglas County



Photo courtesy Robert Linzer



Brought to you by:
Douglas County
Emergency Management

Watch vs. Warning

WATCH:

Advanced notice that severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are possible.

WARNING:

Severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are occurring. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

What should you do BEFORE severe weather strikes?

- Have a severe weather plan in place for you and your family so that everyone knows how to get notifications and where to go when severe weather strikes.
- Develop a severe weather plan for places you frequent (home, work, grocery store, school, etc.).
- Have a Preparedness Kit containing essentials such as water, food, a whistle, an AM/FM radio, and a NOAA all hazards radio ready at all times.
- Check the forecast each morning and be aware of threatening weather in the area and surrounding counties.

What should you do DURING severe weather?

- If you are indoors, seek shelter in an interior room with no windows on the lowest level of the building.
- If you are outdoors or driving when a tornado warning is issued, seek shelter in the nearest building, if none are available, seek shelter in a low-lying area or a ditch and lie flat on the ground.

Severe Weather Threats

Hail

- Hail can form in any shape or size and fall to the earth at very rapid speeds.
- A pea size hailstone falls to the ground at approximately 22 mph, golf ball size hail falls at about 60 mph and baseball size hailstones fall at over 100 mph.
- Hail can cause serious damage to life and property, seek shelter immediately.



Photo courtesy Rachel Meyer Ballard

Heavy Rain & Flooding

- Thunderstorms can produce moderate to heavy rain.
- Heavy rain in short periods of time can result in flash flooding.
- Be aware of your surroundings if driving through heavy rain as it can impair your ability to see clearly.
- Do not walk or drive through a flooded area, even if you know the roads well, they may have washed out.
- Keep away from moving water. Even shallow water can wash away a car or person.
- Avoid downed power lines as they may cause an electric current through a flooded area.

WARNING!
DO NOT DRIVE
ACROSS A ROAD OF
WHICH YOU CANNOT
SEE THE BOTTOM!!!



Severe Weather Threats

High Winds

- Thunderstorms can produce strong and damaging winds with speeds up to 100+ mph.
- These winds can cause damage to property and lives
- Seek shelter immediately

Lightning

- Lightning can strike more than 10 miles away from a storm.
- Follow the “30/30 Rule” which states that you should go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder and stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.



Photo Courtesy Jillian Rodrigue

Tornado

- Tornadoes can strike any month and any time of day.
- Tornadoes can move very quickly with speeds up to 200+ mph.
- Seek shelter in the lowest level of your house in an interior area.
- Stay away from windows.
- If caught outside, seek shelter in a nearby building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

WARNING!
DO NOT SEEK
SHELTER UNDER A
BRIDGE OR OVERPASS.
TORNADOES CREATE A
WIND-TUNNEL EFFECT.



Photo Courtesy Robert Linzer