

EMERGENCY TIP OF THE MONTH FOR SEVERE STORM CONDITIONS

We are entering the seasons where the likelihood of severe storm occurrence is rated HIGH by the County (MODERATE in threat). Because weather patterns are becoming more extreme everywhere, it is good to know what we as a community can do to prepare for the consequences of such an event.

The following is a list of suggestions from Benton County Emergency Services:

Prior to such an event, residents should:

- assemble a 72- hour disaster supply kit for each household member, including medications.
- if a home generator is to be used, be sure he/she knows how to properly site it, operate it, and to store needed fuel for it.

During a storm:

- turn off stove if cooking and turn off other gas appliances.
- stay away from windows, which can break.
- if outdoors, move to a building and away from trees, power poles and objects which could fall. Stay away from downed utility lines.
- if driving, pull off road and stop away from trees or power poles. Listen to car radio for emergency instructions. If possible, walk to a safe building.
- identify in advance those who may need special assistance.

After the Storm:

- check for injuries on self and on others.