

CITY OF MUSCATINE



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PREPARE FOR SEVERE WEATHER – HERE IS WHAT TO DO

Iowa Severe Weather Awareness Week March 24-28; creating a family plan of action

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Preparing for severe weather can make all the difference in protecting your family and property. The National Weather Service (NWS) recommends three simple steps to stay safe: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Stay Informed.

Make a Plan Being prepared means knowing what to do before an emergency strikes. Ensure your family knows how to respond, where to go, and how to stay in contact if separated.

- **Create a Family Communication Plan:** Designate an out-of-town contact for family members to reach during an emergency. Ensure everyone knows how and when to call 911 or local emergency services.
- **Develop an Evacuation Plan:** Contact local emergency management agencies to learn about shelters, hospitals, and evacuation routes. Keep in mind that most shelters do not accept pets, so plan accordingly.
- **Address Special Needs:** Ensure any family members who rely on medical equipment or have special needs are accounted for in your plan.
- Access helpful templates here:
- [Create a Family Emergency Plan \(PDF\)](#)

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- [Create a Wallet-Size Family Emergency Plan \(PDF\)](#)

Build a Kit Assemble an emergency supply kit to sustain your household for 3-5 days. Your kit should include:

- Water and non-perishable food
- First aid supplies
- Battery-operated flashlight and radio with extra batteries
- Clothing, bedding, and hygiene items
- Cash and important documents (such as identification and insurance papers)
- Special items like medications, baby supplies, or pet necessities

Check out a complete supply list here: [Emergency Supply Kit Checklist \(PDF\)](#)

Stay Informed Knowing how to receive timely information can save lives. Stay up-to-date on weather alerts and emergency instructions using these resources:

- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):** Receive free alerts directly to your mobile device without the need for an app or subscription.
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS):** Stay informed via broadcasts on radio and TV during emergencies.
- **NOAA Weather Radio:** Get localized weather alerts through a programmable radio.
- **Alert Iowa:** Sign up for free text, email, or voice notifications from Iowa's official emergency messaging system.
- **511 Information:** Stay informed on road conditions through the Iowa Department of Transportation's website or app.
- **Warning Sirens:** Outdoor sirens are activated for tornado warnings, funnel cloud sightings, or severe thunderstorms with winds of 70 mph or greater, or hail of golf-ball size or larger.

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Being proactive can make all the difference when severe weather strikes. Learn more about emergency preparedness at [Ready.iowa](https://www.ready.iowa.gov/). Stay safe, Muscatine!

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