



MARYLAND SEVERE STORMS AWARENESS WEEK

2025

MONDAY, APRIL 7TH FLOODING



FACTS:

- Most flood fatalities are the result of people attempting to drive across flooded roadways.
- Another large segment of flood fatalities are the result of people attempting to walk or swim across flooded areas or slipping into flooded waters.
- 67% of fatalities were male.

SAFETY:

- Never enter an area where water is covering the road if it is too deep to see pavement. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Night driving is dangerous during flooding. Your ability to see flooded roads is greatly diminished at night, making it easier to drive into a flooded roadway.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH DAMAGING WINDS



FACTS:

- Damaging winds cause most of the tree and structure damage and power outages during thunderstorms.
- A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means damaging winds or hail will occur somewhere within the warning area (if not throughout) within the next 60 minutes.
- These microbursts are like "punches" of wind from the most intense part of the storm that can reach speeds up to 120 mph!

SAFETY:

- If a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued, get to a sturdy shelter away from windows and avoid downed power lines.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH TORNADOES



2002 "La Plata" Tornado over the Chesapeake Bay

FACTS:

- Think Maryland doesn't get them? We had 27 in 2012 alone and close to 100 in the past 10 years!
- They range in strength from those that knock down trees & power lines and strip shingles—to those that cause widespread devastation.

SAFETY:

- Go to the lowest floor in a small interior room or hallway—stay away from windows!
- Mobile homes are not safe! Develop an emergency plan and identify where you will go if a tornado warning is issued.

PRACTICE:

- Participate in the statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m.
- Easily develop your family plan by visiting ready.gov/tornadoes.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH HAIL



June 2015, Timonium, Maryland

FACTS:

- Hail is a ball of ice formed in the extreme turbulence of strong thunderstorms.
- Rain freezes and re-freezes, sometimes allowing the ice to grow as large as the size of softballs—even in Maryland!

SAFETY:

- Hail is only formed in strong, dangerous storms. The larger the hail, the more dangerous the storm.
- If you witness hail - get indoors!

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH LIGHTNING



FACTS:

- Over 98% of lightning casualties are from people outdoors.
- The most frequent fatalities come from outside of the rain area. Lightning can strike over 10 miles away from the rain area!

SAFETY:

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck from a fringe strike—When Thunder Roars, Head Indoors!