






**pennsylvania**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



**MONTHLY**  
September 2018

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Snow.  Floods.  Extreme Heat.  With every season, there is always something to Prepare for. National Preparedness Month is an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year.

### DISASTERS HAPPEN. PREPARE NOW. LEARN HOW.

If you've seen the news recently, you know that emergencies happen unexpectedly in communities just like ours, to people like us. The theme for National Preparedness Month this year is "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." and challenges you to take action now.



Preparing goes beyond just making a kit and building a plan. Make time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, and check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as flooding and tornados.

### LEARN EASY WAYS TO PREPARE

We know how important it is to prepare and how daunting it may seem to get started. That's why we are launching the **30 Days/30 Ways Program** for Preparedness Month 2018. Sign up, and each week in September, you will receive an email that includes easy tips and tools - one for each day of the week - that can help you be better prepared. **It's free to participate and you could win a wind up radio/charger!**

#### Here's how to participate:

1. Sign up any time in September at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/30days-30ways>
2. You will receive an email with tips and tools each week. At the end of the month, you will receive a very short survey to help us learn the tips that were most helpful for you.
3. When you submit your survey, you will receive a customized ReadyPA team 30 Days/30 Ways printable certificate.
4. You will also be entered into our random drawing for a wind up radio/ flashlight/ phone charger!



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Wind up radio/flashlight/ charger.

Thank you for being part of the **ReadyPA Team's 30 Days/30 Ways Program.**

## 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance



The September 11, "National Day of Service and Remembrance" or "9/11 Day" is a federally recognized day of unity and charitable service. On the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the day is observed annually throughout the United States and in other countries around the world. It has grown to become the largest annual day of charitable service in the United States.

Activities on this day include engage tens of thousands of students of all ages in service activities. Activities include; coast-to-coast blood drives; meal packing projects; painting and refurbishing homes; food drives; reclaiming neighborhoods; helping communities prepare for disasters; and countless other activities that support and honor those lost and injured on 9/11; veterans, soldiers, military families, and rescue and recovery workers, including first responders.

To locate volunteer opportunities or to register your project, log onto:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance>.



**TOMORROW  
TOGETHER**

911day.org

### #MOMENTOF SILENCE

On 9/11, pay your respects by going silent on social media. During the times listed below, simply post these hashtags: #MomentofSilence and #911Day. Then, stay silent for just 1 minute.

**8:46 AM EDT** - AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT #11  
CRASHES INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

**9:03 AM EDT** - UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT #175 CRASHES  
INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SOUTH TOWER

**9:37 AM EDT** - AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT #77  
CRASHES INTO THE U.S. PENTAGON

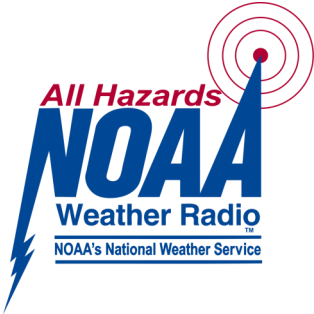
**9:59 AM EDT** - WORLD TRADE CENTER SOUTH TOWER  
COLLAPSES

**10:03 AM EDT** - UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT #93 CRASHES  
IN SHANKSVILLE, PA.

**10:28 AM EDT** - WORLD TRADE CENTER NORTH TOWER  
COLLAPSES

Source: 9/11 Memorial & Museum

## Weather Radios - The "Smoke Alarm" for Severe Weather



Would you rely on your phone to alert you of a fire in your home in the middle of the night? Then why would you rely on your phone to alert you of a tornado or flash flood when you are sound asleep? While phone apps along with broadcast television and radio stations are all excellent methods to receive severe weather alerts while awake, a NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive life-threatening alerts while sleeping. These radios will alert you of life or property threatening severe weather 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### How They Work:

The NOAA weather radio actively monitors a FM radio channel on a few frequencies just a bit higher than the radio stations in your car. The National Weather Service (NWS) continuously broadcasts forecasts and other information on this radio station. However, most likely you'll have your weather radio set to alert mode, which means you hear nothing until a severe weather watch or warning is issued. The NWS will broadcast a special tone that will activate your radio, setting off an alarm. You can acknowledge the alarm and listen to the special message. Some radios will also display a light and text display of the watch or warning type. Most new weather radios can be programmed so they only alert for a county or counties you select, so you don't get alerted for storms not impacting your area.



### Where To Get One

You can purchase these radios at many retail chains, hardware stores, and online outlets. Be sure to find the radio that matches your needs. Most are best to be put in a single location of your home, plugged in with a battery back-up. Handheld radios can alert you while camping or spending time outdoors. A few models have crank power for emergencies and may become part of a safety kit. If you're looking for one programable to your county, make sure it has Specific Area Message Encoding or "SAME" technology.



Information on your county SAME codes can be found on the NOAA website:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/usingsame.html>

or by calling 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263)

# Severe Thunderstorm Safety

When you hear the words "severe thunderstorm" in the forecast, be ready for more than just heavy rain and lightning.

## SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS CAN BRING:



Hail



Strong Wind  
Gusts



Lightning



Heavy  
Rain



Flash  
Floods



Tornadoes

## KNOW YOUR TERMS



### Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Conditions are favorable for thunderstorms. Be prepared to move indoors.



### Severe Thunderstorm Warning

A thunderstorm is imminent or occurring. Take shelter now!

Created by Ready Georgia [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov)

## Some Severe Storm To Dos

To do...



### Be in the know when you need to know.

Today's smart phones can be your own emergency alert system. The National Weather Service sends Wireless Emergency Alerts for tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, hurricane warnings, and more. However, you have to make sure your phone settings are set to receive the alerts. Check the notification settings on both Android and iOS.



Have a radio or weather radio within reach. Battery operated or wind up options are best since you will want updates even if the power goes out.



### Know where you'll go.

Pick a safe place in your home for household members to gather during a thunderstorm. This should be away from windows, skylights and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.

If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



In your car? Park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

## PEMA is Social!

*Find us, visit us, like us, tweet us, retweet us!*



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

## PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

*Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!*



[www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)



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[www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

### Preparedness Events in September

#### 30 Days/ 30 Ways

Sign up for a month of tips to Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/30days-30ways>

#### National Preparedness Month

([www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov) or [www.ready.gov/september](http://www.ready.gov/september))

#### 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

([www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance](http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance))

### Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

ReadyPA: [www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)

SERVPA: [www.Serv.PA.gov](http://www.Serv.PA.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Aging: [www.aging.pa.gov/publications/Pages/Emergency-Preparedness.aspx](http://www.aging.pa.gov/publications/Pages/Emergency-Preparedness.aspx)

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services: [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

PA State Animal Response Team: [www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

PA Department of Transportation: [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov)

PA511Connect: [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com)

Pennsylvania State Police: [www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

### How can you Be Ready?

#### Before

- Learn what a watch and a warning mean for you.
- Weather alerts are issued by county. Know what county you live, work or go to school in.

#### During

- **Thunderstorms:** Head indoors. Stay off electronics and away from water.
- **Lightning:** If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- **Tornadoes:** Head to the basement or the lowest floor. Wear a helmet.
- **Floods:** Head to higher ground.
- **Heat:** Drink lots of water and don't play outside for too long.

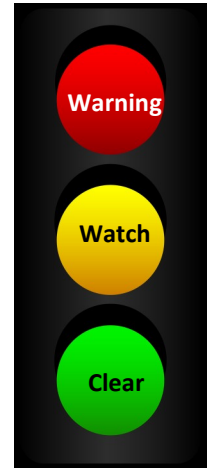


### Know Your Alert Terms

When the weather turns bad, the National Weather Service lets us know with special phrases. Do you know the difference?

**Watch:** There is a chance for dangerous weather. Time to prepare!

**Warning:** Dangerous weather is occurring or will occur in your area. Take action!



Watch and warning messages sent from the National Weather Service are based on weather in your county. What county do you live in?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Write your county name here*

### When dangerous weather arrives, take action!

The action you take differs based on the dangerous weather that arrives. Draw a line from the dangerous weather (on the left) to how you should take action (on the right).



Lightning

"Beat the heat, stay cool"



Flooding

"If a tornado is around, get low to the ground"



Tornado

"When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors"  
"See a flash, dash inside"



Heat

"Turn Around, Don't Drown"