

CARBON VALLEY SERVING CARBON VALLEY SINCE 1950

FARMER & MINER

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Weather warnings

This month's safety article is part 2 of a series on severe weather preparation.

Watches & Warnings The National Weather Service uses specific terminology to relay the weather threat to the public. In the summer, there are a variety of watches and warnings you need to understand in order to be prepared.

Tornado watch

Means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. It is normally issued for four to six hours and includes many counties. If you are in or near the tornado watch area, stay informed via NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television. Keep your eye on the sky, and be prepared to take cover at short notice, as tornadoes can occur with little or no warning.

Tornado warning

Means that a tornado has been sighted or a developing

tornado is reported by trained spotters or indicated on Doppler radar. A warning is typically issued for a small area for less than an hour. If a tornado warning is issued in your area ... take cover immediately.

Severe thunderstorm watch

Means that conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to produce wind gusts to 58 mph or stronger, or hail to 3/4 inch or larger in the watch area. These watches are issued for four to six hours at a time and for a number of counties. Stay informed, watch the sky, and take cover if a severe thunderstorm approaches you.

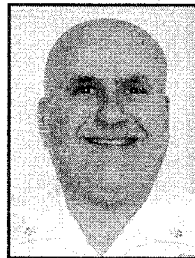
Severe thunderstorm warning

Means that a severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or a trained spotter. Take cover if you are near the severe

thunderstorm.

Flash flood watch

This is issued when a heavy rain may develop and result in flash flooding in or near the watch area.



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Flash Flood Warning

Flash flooding in the warning area has developed or is imminent. Move to higher ground at once.

Urban and small stream flood advisory
Local flooding of small streams, streets, or low lying areas such as railroad underpasses is occurring or is imminent.

Fire Weather Watch

Red flag fire conditions are expected to develop. Red flag conditions are defined by critical weather and fire danger condition that could lead to extensive wildfire occurrence and/or fire control difficulties.

Red flag warning

Red flag fire conditions are imminent or occurring. Be extremely careful with campfires, cigarette butts, and anything that would emit sparks

72-hour family emergency kit

A 72-Hour Emergency Kit should be maintained by each family and should be individually tailored to meet the basic survival needs of your family for a minimum of three days. Most families prefer to store their emergency supplies in one location that is relatively safe, yet easily accessible if an evacuation is required. Items may be stored in a 32-gallon trash can, suitcase, duffle bag, backpack, footlocker or individual pack. The following items are recommended for your home kit:

- Battery-powered radio
- First aid kit & manual
- Sleeping bags and blankets (wool/ thermal)
- Manual can opener
- Waterproof/windproof matches

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- Non-perishable foods
- Flashlight
- Water storage (1 gal./day)
- Water purification tablets
- Utility knife
- Emergency candles
- Extra eyeglasses/contact Lenses
- Essential medications
- Extra clothing
- Extra batteries

The following items are recommended for your car kit:

- Always maintain at Least 1/2 tank of gas
- First aid kit and manual
- Class ABC fire extinguisher

- Radio and batteries
- Non-perishable food stored in coffee can
- Bottled water
- Bag of sand, shovel and tools
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Paper and pencil, map, tissues, premoistened towels, plastic bags, essential medications
- Flashlights and batteries
- Reflectors and flares
- Waterproof matches & candles
- Jumper cables
- Short rubber hose for siphoning

Family emergency kits should be inventoried and checked every six months and changed for the current season. The contents of the kits need to

be assembled to meet the needs of all members of your family including your pets. For further detailed information got to: http://dola.colorado.gov/dem/public_information/emergency_kit.htm

There are several Web sites available to assist citizens with emergency planning. Please look over these sites, and remember to take responsibility for your safety:

<http://www.weather.gov>

http://dola.colorado.gov/dem/public_information/severe_weather/SpringHazards.htm

For more information contact Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District administration offices at 303-833-2742.