QUICK ACTION CARDS: WEATHER

READY WHEN IT MATTERS · FREE PRINTABLE

Cut out the cards and keep them where you will see them. Always follow official warnings and the emergency services.

Flood alert or flood warning

1. Check the latest warning online or by phone (Floodline 0345 988 1188).
2. Move people, pets, medicines, documents and valuables upstairs.
3. Put flood barriers or covers in place if you have them.
4. Charge phones and power banks. Pack grab bags.
5. Move the car to higher ground if it is safe to do so.
6. Be ready to turn off gas, electricity and water.
7. Severe flood warning: danger to life. Act now and follow the emergency services.

Flood water outside

1. Never walk, swim or drive through flood water.
2. 30 cm of flowing water can move a car. 15 cm can knock you off your feet.
3. Get to higher ground or upstairs and stay there.
4. If you are in danger, call 999 (or 112).
5. Do not touch electrics if they are wet or you are standing in water.
6. Keep children and pets away from the water.

Storm warning

1. Bring in or tie down garden furniture, bins and trampolines.
2. Charge phones, power banks and torches.
3. Park away from trees, walls and fences if you can.
4. Stay indoors, away from windows.
5. Do not walk along the coast or near cliffs.
6. Keep away from fallen power lines. Call 105 (NIE Networks in Northern Ireland: 03457 643 643).

Heatwave or heat-health alert

1. Keep windows, curtains and blinds closed on sunny sides during the day.
2. Open windows at night when it is cooler outside.
3. Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol.
4. Stay out of the sun between 11 am and 3 pm.
5. Check on older neighbours and anyone living alone.
6. Never leave a child or an animal in a parked car.
7. Confused, very hot or collapsed? Call 999 (or 112).

Heavy snow or ice

1. Travel only if you really need to. Check warnings first.
2. If you drive, carry a winter kit, water, food and a charged phone.
3. Keep at least one room heated to 18°C if you can.
4. Wear layers, a hat and gloves indoors as well as out.
5. Check on older neighbours.
6. Signs of hypothermia? Warm the person slowly and call 999 (or 112).

Thunderstorm and lightning

1. If you hear thunder, you are within range of lightning.
2. Go indoors, or into a car with the windows closed.
3. Keep away from water, high ground, open fields and lone trees.
4. Indoors, avoid baths and showers and wired phones.
5. Unplug sensitive electrical equipment before the storm.
6. Someone struck? They are safe to touch. Call 999 (or 112) and start CPR if needed.

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QUICK ACTION CARDS: WEATHER (CONTINUED)

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Wildfire nearby

1. Call 999 (or 112) and say exactly where the fire is.
2. Move away from the fire, across its path, not ahead of it.
3. If you are told to leave, go at once. Do not wait to see.
4. Close all windows and doors behind you.
5. Stay indoors with windows shut if smoke reaches your home.
6. Never go towards a fire to look or take photographs.

Earthquake (at home or abroad)

1. Drop to your hands and knees.
2. Cover your head and neck under a sturdy table, or against an inside wall.
3. Hold on until the shaking stops.
4. Stay away from windows, shelves and outside walls.
5. Once outside, keep clear of buildings, walls and power lines.
6. Expect aftershocks. Follow local instructions.

Tsunami warning signs (coast)

1. A strong earthquake near the coast is a natural warning.
2. So is the sea suddenly drawing back, or a loud roar from the sea.
3. Do not wait for an official alert. Move inland or uphill at once.
4. If you cannot leave, go to an upper floor of a strong building.
5. Stay away from the coast until officials say it is safe.

Returning home after a disaster

1. Go back only when the authorities say it is safe.
2. Check for structural damage, and smells of gas or burning.
3. Do not switch on electrics until they have been checked.
4. Photograph all damage before you clear up.
5. Wear gloves, boots and a mask when cleaning up.
6. Tell your insurer as soon as you can.

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