

July 2011



## Department of Public Safety

### Severe Weather—Sheltering

We talked last month about the various severe weather events, advisories and preparedness. This month we'll discuss sheltering. It's important to always be analyzing your surroundings for sheltering possibilities. Just a few weeks ago, I found myself having to make a split second decision when the weather changed rapidly and the civil defense sirens sounded. The following information may better inform you to be able to make your own decisions, on-the-fly or in advance.

**Tornado Safety** In all circumstances, crouch/lay as low as possible and protect your head from flying debris.

In a home with a basement: Avoid windows, get under something sturdy and avoid areas that have heavy objects on the floor above them.

In a home without a basement: Avoid windows, go to the lowest floor, put as many walls between you and the outside as you can (under a stairwell, in a small closet, bathroom, interior hallway).

In a mobile home: GET OUT! Go to the nearest sturdy, permanent structure or lie low on the ground or in a depression away from trees and vehicles.

In an office building/hospital: Go to the enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building avoiding elevators.

If you're outdoors: Get inside, if possible. If there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Contrary to belief, under bridges and overpasses are NOT acceptable shelter. These areas are exposed to high-velocity winds and flying debris.

If you're in a vehicle: Do NOT try to outrun the tornado. Get out of your vehicle and find safe shelter indoors. If there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area, away from your vehicle. If the tornado is visible but far away, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado.

MCC.EDU: On the home page of [www.mcc.edu](http://www.mcc.edu) you will find "Campus Maps". Not only do these maps provide the location of rooms, fire extinguishers and restrooms but they also provide the sheltering areas for each building. Take a look at the maps for your most frequented areas and become familiar with them before you need it.

**Lightning Safety** If you can shelter indoors stay away from anything that could conduct electricity. Things such as water (do not take a shower or bath), windows, fireplaces, radiators,

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Mott Community College

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#### Car Seat Reminder

Children younger than age 4 are to ride in a car seat in the rear seat if the vehicle has a rear seat. If all available rear seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat.

A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat if the airbag is turned off.

Children are to be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old *or* 4 feet 9 inches tall. Children must ride in a seat until they reach the age requirement or the height requirement, whichever comes first.

When flooded  
Turn around  
Don't drown



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stoves, plumbing, telephone lines, and plugged-in appliances. Move to an interior room.

If you're outdoors and cannot find shelter indoors then always avoid the tallest object in the area. Trees are *not* good cover. You can find protection in your vehicle, in a ditch or other depression. Avoid proximity to anything in the area. Keep at least 15 feet between you and another person or object. Crouch down with your feet together.

If you feel an electrical charge such as your hair standing on ends or your skin tingling then lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to the ground immediately.

**Flood Safety** During rains that have lasted for several hours or a fast, heavy rain, be attentive to the chance of flooding. Low lying roadways and houses may be at risk for flooding. Know where high ground is and move there quickly. *Do not* attempt to cross fast-flowing water more than shin-deep or *drive through flooded areas*. Turn around for higher ground and an alternate route. Most flood-related deaths occur in automobiles. Most cars will float and be swept away in 18 to 24 inches of moving water! Trucks and SUV's in 30 to 36 inches. Vehicles will often roll to one side or flip over completely. You would have just seconds to escape.

Let every nation  
know, whether it  
wishes us well or  
ill, that we shall  
pay any price,  
bear any burden,  
meet any hardship,  
support any friend,  
oppose any foe to  
assure the  
survival and  
success of liberty.

-John F. Kennedy

### Have a Safe July 4th Holiday—Happy Birthday America!

Summer memories often include lighting sparklers and watching fireworks during 4th of July celebrations, however, hundreds of children are injured by fireworks each summer.

Fireworks can cause serious burn and eye injuries. In 2011, 3,400 children under age 15 were injured by fireworks. Of these injuries, over 70% occurred in the weeks surrounding July 4th.

The safest choice is to leave fireworks to professional use.

Children should never play with or light fireworks or sparklers.

Adults who use fireworks should not use them around children.



**Fireworks are not child's play.**

Sparklers alone cause an estimated one third of fireworks-related injuries to children under age 5.

A friendly reminder from **Safe Kids USA**