



It's Raining Cats and Dogs Weather Safety Guide

If you've lived in Mississippi for more than a week, you know the weather changes everyday. One day it's sunny, hot, and humid. The next day can be cooler, dry and pleasant. The next may be torrential rain storms, or storms for maybe an hour and then beautiful sun.

Well, I can't prepare you for all the daily changes in the weather, but I can help you stay safe in bad weather.

We have all experienced tornadoes in one way or another. Here are a few tips to keep you and your family safe. If you are at home, go to the basement or most interior space on the lowest level in your home (hallway, bathroom, or closet) and cover yourself and your child with a blanket.

This will shield you and your child from possible flying debris. If you and your child are in a shopping mall, hospital, or school go to the most interior space on the lowest floor. Do not sit near glass doors or windows. Crouch down and cover your head with your hands to keep flying debris or glass from hitting you. If you are in a car or mobile home, get out as fast as you can. If you are unable to make it to a building, then lie flat in the nearest ditch or lowest lying ground and cover your head with your hands. Never try to outrun a tornado. Simply, stop and try to find the closest means of shelter.

Lightning can be a fascinating natural phenomenon to watch, however, it can be just as harmful. If you are indoors during a lightning storm or major thunderstorm, stay there. Try and avoid using the telephone or electrical appliances, unless it is an emergency. Stay out of the bath or shower. If you are outside, find a shelter as quickly as possible. If you are in or on the water, get out.

If you are in the woods, crouch under a thick growth of small trees. If your hair begins to stand on end, squat down, put your head between your knees, and cover your head with your hands. Do not lie flat.

One thing you need to remember: do not scare your children when the weather turns ugly. They will probably already be a bit nervous about the weather. Remain calm and reassure them everything will be all right. Take the proper precautions. Let your child know that if he or she is at school and a tornado hits, his or her teacher will know what to do and you and your child will be safe. Severe weather can be very frightening, but seeing you remain calm during a storm, your child will be better able to do the same.