

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER



Image: Idaho Transportation Department

## SEVERE WEATHER IN IDAHO

Extreme weather is considered one of the greatest potential causes of natural disasters in Ada County. January and February of 2017 we experienced record breaking snow fall. Spring and summer months can also bring a variety of severe weather threats to Ada County. Damaging wind, large hail, tornadoes, and flash flooding are always possible during a severe thunderstorm. Ada County has one or two severe thunderstorms each year on average which can cause cascading hazards. Below are safety tips in case you get caught in a severe thunderstorm.

### THUNDERSTORM SAFETY

Thunderstorms that sit over a single area for a long amount of time are typically the most severe. Lightning can strike in distances up to 10 miles away from any rainfall. [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) provides safety tips on what to do if you get caught in a thunderstorm outdoors:

- ⇒ If you are in an open area, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley (be alert for flash floods).
- ⇒ If you are on open water, get to land and find shelter immediately.
- ⇒ If you are in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.
- ⇒ If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and avoid touching metal or other car surfaces.

When indoors, stay away from doors and windows. Avoid all contact with plumbing and bathroom fixtures. These home features can easily conduct electricity. Avoid contact with electrical equipment and unplug appliances. A lightning strike on your home can cause a power surge and damage appliances and electronics in your home. For more information about severe weather safety, visit [adacounty.id.gov/accem/How-to-Prepare-Resources/Weather](http://adacounty.id.gov/accem/How-to-Prepare-Resources/Weather).

### SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING ON APRIL 10, 2018

The community is invited to attend a Severe Weather Spotter Training presented by the National Weather Service Office in Boise. The raining will take place at the Canyon County Public Meeting Room in Caldwell at 111 N 11th Ave. Class will start at 6:30 PM. Everyone in the community is invited. Training will include cloud and storm recognition, storm hazards and safety tips, and weather reporting procedures. To view more details about the class, view the announcement at [goo.gl/2c3JJP](http://goo.gl/2c3JJP).

