

EXTREME WEATHER

Natural catastrophes are becoming larger and stronger, whilst sometimes lasting longer, and therefore they impact much more on society as a whole, as well as causing more disruption, damage and injury. The frequency of violent storms, drought, flooding, fire and other large scale natural catastrophes would seem to indicate that this could become the 'norm' as the impacts of global warming take effect.

Extreme weather includes weather phenomena that are at the extremes of the historical distribution, especially severe or unseasonal weather, such as: Hurricanes; Tornadoes; Typhoons; Funnel Clouds; Water Spouts; Thunderstorms; Monsoons, Blizzards; Dust storms/Sandstorms; Tsunami.

DEVELOP A WEATHER SAFETY PLAN

- Address each weather threat as it applies to your location and people. Consider time of day when safety planning (e.g. peak high wind occurrence is 4-9pm).
- Practice: conduct staff awareness meetings to make sure everyone knows the plan.
- Evaluate: time needed to shelter and suitability of shelters.
- Monitor: Have a designated 'Weather Watcher' to monitor the sky and news channels ("watches" and "warnings").

PREPARATION

Establish sheltering/response criteria.

- Where will people go?
- Recommended safe rooms: Interior of building; Room without windows; Roof tied to walls; walls tied to foundations; Protection from "missiles" (flying objects).
- Check local safe room guidelines (e.g. FEMA safe room guidelines).
- Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter.

Is there enough space?

- Visitors, especially large groups.
- People leading the group must have and know the safety plan.
- Enough time to get there?

PRIOR TO/DURING A STORM

- Either Go/stay home if advisable or move to a designated safe area/safe room.
- Continue to check LOCAL and NATIONAL online weather information.
- Have national 'Weather Radio' stations switched on to monitor severe weather information
- Get information from your weather watchers
- Keep staff and visitors notified.

AFTER A STORM

- Communicate "All Clear".
- Notify other stakeholders.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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