

## Protect your home

Thunderstorms can cause considerable damage to your home. Hail can shred roofing materials and lead to water damage in your ceilings, walls, floors, appliances and personal possessions. Lightning can start fires or destroy valuable electric and electronic equipment.

### Inside your home

Windows are vulnerable to hail damage. Large stones and strong winds can combine to do considerable damage.

- ❖ Windows covered with protective film will prevent glass from shattering if they are broken. Large hailstones and strong winds can cause glass to shatter, but the film can keep the shattered glass from being hurled into your home.
- ❖ Surge arrestors and suppressors can protect your electric and electronic equipment should lightning strike power lines.



### The home itself

Impact-resistant roof coverings and lightning protection systems can save trouble and money. Most roofing jobs are not for the do-it-yourselfer, so consider hiring a professional roofing contractor next time you replace your roof. Also, check with your local building officials to be sure what you are doing complies with local building codes.

- ❖ When you next replace your roof covering, consider using slate, heavy-duty asphalt or other types of shingles that will not crack when hit twice in the same area. In the United States such shingles are rated "Class 4". Some roof coverings, particularly some made of metal, may test well for crack resistance but can be dented.
- ❖ If you have siding on your home, consider using materials resistant to hail damage when you next replace the siding.
- ❖ In an area of frequent lightning strikes, consider investing in electrical surge protection and a certified lightning protection system of lightning rods, conductors and ground terminals.

### Outside your home

It is important that you shelter vehicles and other valuable property.

- ❖ Move your vehicles and other valuable property into shelter when you are warned that a thunderstorm may strike.
- ❖ Landscape with shredded bark rather than more dangerous material such as gravel or rock.
- ❖ Remove weak branches and trees that could fall on your house

Create a family disaster safety plan. Assemble a disaster safety kit. Together, identify escape routes from your home and neighbourhood. Choose an emergency meeting place for the family. Be prepared!

## Protect yourself

Thunderstorms bring a wide range of threats. These include hail, lightning, strong winds and heavy rainfall. All of these hazards can result in property damage, injuries or fatalities. React immediately when you first see lightning, hear thunder or are given some other warning. There are a few simple precautions that you can take to protect yourself.

### If you are indoors

- ❖ Stay indoors when a thunderstorm strikes.
- ❖ Large hailstones can shatter windows, so stay away from windows, skylights and doors.
- ❖ Do not use the phone during the storm, and do not contact metal objects like radiators, stoves, metal pipes, sinks or other potential conductors of electricity.
- ❖ If the storm is safe distance away, close your drapes, blinds or window shades to prevent the wind from blowing broken glass inside, and consider unplugging televisions and other electrical appliances that do not have surge protectors.

### If you are outdoors

- ❖ Move immediately to a place of shelter. Go to a building or vehicle. Large enclosed structures tend to be much safer than smaller open structures.
- ❖ Avoid water, high ground, isolated trees, picnic shelters and open spaces.
- ❖ If lightning strikes when you are outside, crouch down and put your feet together. Minimize your contact with the ground, and do not lie down. Cover your ears to reduce the threat of hearing damage from thunder.

### If you are in a vehicle

- ❖ Stop the car safely at the side of the road and stay there.
- ❖ Completely close all windows and do not touch any metal objects.

Become familiar with your community's severe weather warning system. Every member of your family should know what to do when a severe weather watch or warning sounds. Learn about your disaster safety plans in the workplace and at your children's school and/or childcare centre.

### Research, the foundation for action

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) is a world-class centre for multi-disciplinary disaster prevention research and education. Through research, ICLR is working to strengthen the foundation for effective action to achieve its mission to reduce the loss of life, injuries and property damage due to natural hazards.

### Building disaster research capacity

ICLR is an independent, not-for-profit research institute founded by the Canadian insurance industry. It is affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Institute research networks are building the capacity of the research community. ICLR staff and research associates are internationally renown for their expertise in wind and seismic engineering, atmospheric science, risk perception, hydrology, economics, geography, health sciences and public policy.

### Many losses are preventable

Worldwide, natural disasters killed more than 650,000 people during the 1990s, and caused more than C\$1 trillion in damage. Disaster damage payments by insurance companies, governments and international aid organizations has been doubling every five to seven years since the 1950s, an alarming international trend. Perhaps the greatest tragedy is that many disaster losses are preventable.

### Community and individual safety

Nature's extreme events are remarkable forces. They can be relentless and unforgiving, but they do not need to cause disasters. Hazards deserve respect. They demand that individuals prepare, and that communities invest in resilience. Resilient communities and knowledgeable individuals can best prevent hazards from becoming disasters, but are often not doing so.



*building resilient communities*

Be prepared.  
Disasters can strike at any time.

Visit [www.ICLR.org](http://www.ICLR.org)  
and learn how to protect your family  
and home.

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## Lightning/Hail



Protect yourself  
and  
your home

Disaster prevention research saves lives

Disaster prevention research protects property

[www.ICLR.org](http://www.ICLR.org)