

## **Be Prepared for the Next Big Storm**

Life in Delaware is often beautiful and serene. But, when it comes to severe weather, being in a relatively flat state surrounded by water can be less than ideal. From hurricanes to tornadoes to nor'easters, Delaware is hit with severe storms every year. It's important to have a plan in place long before the storm alerts, watches, and warnings are issued.

Severe weather can strike anytime, anywhere. Make an emergency plan with your family and be sure to discuss the following: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together if separated; and what you will do in various emergency situations.

After creating a plan, consider making or purchasing an emergency-preparedness kit. When disaster strikes, there isn't time to sort through belongings to find what is important. Having everything you may need in one place, such as an emergency-preparedness kit, will save you crucial time during severe weather. A kit should include non-perishable food items, water, first-aid supplies, copies of important family documents, a flashlight and extra clothes. Some kits even contain emergency radios, reflective sleeping bags, breathing masks, and of course, duct tape.

You can make your own emergency-preparedness kit at home with your family, or purchase one online from places like the Red Cross.

Whether you're preparing for a severe thunderstorm or gearing up for hurricane season, it's important to always have a plan when it comes to severe weather. Don't get caught unprepared when the next storm hits.