



## **Summer Safety**

Summer means vacation, outdoor activities, and fun in the sun! It's a time when families hit the road to visit national parks or distant relatives. The warm months and long days mean that there is plenty of time for baseball games and barbecues. The sultry temperatures practically invite you to take a dip in the pool or ocean.

But don't let the sunny days and warm nights fool you. Summer also holds significant weather and water hazards. Heat waves can be lengthy and deadly. Lightning deaths are at their peak during the summer. Beach hazards such as rip currents can catch the unprepared. And, it's the start of hurricane season.

This summer, the [National Weather Service](#) (NWS) wants you to be prepared for the following weather and water hazards:

- [Floods](#)
- [Severe Weather](#)
- [Rip Currents/Beach Hazards](#)
- [Drought](#)
- [Air Quality](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Wildfire](#)
- [Heat](#)
- [Lightning](#)
- [Tsunamis](#)

But you're not powerless in the face of these hazards. With just a few simple steps, you can become weather-ready. Stay safe this summer: Know Your Risk, Take Action and Be a Force of Nature! *Reprint from ready.gov for more information.*

### 1. **Know Your Risk**

Being prepared means learning about summer weather and water hazards such as hurricanes, heat, lightning, rip currents, air quality, tsunamis and wildfires. Here's what you need to know:

- The Atlantic **Hurricane Season** runs from June 1 through November 30. Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents.
- Since 2003, 43 states within the continental United States have come under a tornado watch; 49 states have come under severe thunderstorm watches; and lightning strikes occur in every state.

Heat waves are common across the country during the summer. They are dangerous because the human body cannot cool itself properly when exposed to an extreme combination of heat and humidity.

## 2. **Take Action**

While the weather may be wild, you are not powerless. This summer, prepare for hazards with these simple steps:

- Do you live in a hurricane evacuation zone? If so, you need to [plan](#) on where you and your family would ride out the storm if you are told to evacuate.
- You may have only minutes to find shelter before a tornado strikes. Practice a [family tornado drill](#) at least once a year.
- Protect yourself from [extreme heat](#) by rescheduling outdoor activities to earlier in the day.

There is no safe place outside when lightning is in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, [When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors](#).

## 3. **Be a Force of Nature**

Your action can inspire others. Be a Force of Nature and share how you're working to stay safe from weather and water hazards this summer.

- Write a post on Facebook. Share with your friends and family the preparedness steps you're taking to stay safe this summer.
- Tweet that you're prepared with [#SummerSafety](#). Tell us what you're doing to be prepared for summer hazards.

Create a [Family Communication Plan](#) so that your loved ones know how to get in touch during an emergency. And let your friends know that they should create a plan also.