



Safety Tips for Surviving Spring Storms

Brought to you courtesy of **PRIDE Cleaning and Restoration, Inc.** – Disaster Kleenup of Saint Louis – proudly serving the Saint Louis Bi-State Metro area since 1987. We can't prevent disasters, but when disaster strikes we like to help make things better.
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Spring is right around the corner, and with it comes the threat of severe weather.

Tornadoes, thunderstorms, hail and ice storms, and flooding can damage or destroy homes and commercial buildings along with entire neighborhoods within minutes.

PRIDE Cleaning and Restoration a local provider of fire and water damage cleanup and restoration services for residential and commercial properties provides consumers with this tip-sheet of safety measures that can help to protect you and your family when storms strike.

- Nobody likes to cancel an outdoor activity, but when weather looks threatening, remember to put family safety first. Before heading out, turn on your radio or TV to see if a storm watch or warning is issued for your area. Also, have a family and business disaster plan in place.
- A major storm can knock out utility service to your area, leaving you without electricity, heat, water or fresh food. All homes and businesses should have an emergency kit that can be accessed at a moment's notice.

An emergency kit should at least include:

1. Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
2. Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
3. Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
4. Flashlight and extra batteries
5. First aid kit
6. Whistle to signal for help
7. Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
8. Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
9. Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities such as gas and or water mains, and power
10. Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
11. Local maps
12. Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger



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You should also consider adding the following items to your kit:

1. Prescription medications and glasses
2. Infant formula and diapers
3. Pet food and extra water for your pet
4. Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
5. Cash or traveler's checks and change
6. Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
7. Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
8. Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
9. Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
10. Fire Extinguisher
11. Matches in a waterproof container
12. Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
13. Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
14. Paper and pencil
15. Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



Make sure everyone in your family knows where the kit is kept. Review your emergency plan with your family and keep it in a handy location.

- For more helpful emergency disaster information, and to find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency, visit: "<http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>" and "<http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>"



PRIDE also recommends preparing your home before a storm.

Below are some valuable tips for helping prevent damage from severe weather. If necessary, hire a professional if you are not equipped to do the work yourself.

- Check your gutters and downspouts – keeping these clean from dirt and debris will ensure good drainage of water off of your roof in heavy downpours.
- Check that your drains and storm water gullies are clear and free of trash and debris. This will help storm waters drain efficiently off your property.



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- Trim trees of all dead, split and broken branches on a regular basis. Well maintained trees are less likely to break in heavy storms. "Topping" very tall trees – shortening them by cutting the tall tops off - could also prevent them hitting your house if they should fall over. Also clear tall trees away from power lines and telecommunication lines.
- Use caution after a storm. The aftermath of a severe storm also poses dangers. Make sure the people around you are safe. Also, check for injuries and call for help if necessary.
- Check for broken tree limbs and downed power lines. **Downed power line pose a very serious and life threatening hazard.** *Avoid all contact with power lines – do not even approach a downed line, but instead immediately call your local power company or 911.*
- When dealing with broken and downed tree limbs, be very careful that debris do not inadvertently come down on someone. Often when dealing with downed trees it is advisable to call on the services of professional tree and debris removers instead of attempting to clean up yourself..
- If damage to your home or business is significant, immediately contact a professional in the property loss restoration and emergency mitigation service industry. Time is money – the sooner a professional assesses your damage and corrective actions are initiated, the smaller the possibility of incurring additional unnecessary damage.
- When engaging the services of a property loss and disaster cleanup professional, look for properly licensed and insured companies with certifications from The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC), and the Restoration Industry Association (RIA).
- **PRIDE Cleaning and Restoration**, a proud member of Disaster Kleenup International (DKI), RIA, IICRC, and a BBB accredited company, provides 24Hr Emergency services to help you deal with all storm damage and debris removal. For Emergency Water Extraction, board up of windows and doors, tarp over of roofs and heavily damaged structures, or tree limb removal, call us at 1-888-838-5868.
- Taking preventive steps is the key and is well worth it to avoid injury to loved ones and damage to your property from severe storms. If you are properly prepared, you can react from practice, not panic. You can also greatly increase your chances for weathering the storm safely.



PRIDE Cleaning and Restoration is a local provider of fire, water and mold damage restoration and reconstruction services for residential and commercial properties. No loss is too big or too small for us to handle.

PRIDE – a licensed general contractor - also provides remodeling services for kitchens and bathrooms, along with other room and home alterations.

PRIDE is locally owned and operated, fully licensed, bonded and insured, with certifications from leading industry organizations like The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). Founded in 1987, PRIDE Cleaning and Restoration proudly serves the Saint Louis Bi-State Metro area. More info at: www.priderestoration.com



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