



# Storm and fire safety for mobile homes

- Tips to keep you and your mobile home safe in an emergency situation



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Severe storms and tornadoes can strike at any time. Planning ahead for these types of situations can be integral for your family's safety. Making sure you are prepared and having an evacuation plan is the best course of action in case of approaching severe weather. There are also steps you can take to properly secure your home from hail, heavy rain, wind, flooding, lightning, and fire damage.

## Keep yourself safe

- If you must evacuate, try to find a shelter that is out of harm's way.
- Be sure to keep an emergency kit handy. Pack non-perishable food, water, flashlights, a first aid kit, and medication for a minimum of three days.
- If you can't leave before the severe storm hits, move to an inside room that is reinforced.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof and fireproof container such as a safe or lockbox.

## Secure your mobile home

- Remove items from around your home that can easily be blown away, such as chairs, tables and garbage containers.
- Install tie-downs to anchor your home. When tie-downs are properly installed and anchored, the home's wind resistance is significantly improved. If you are not sure what tie-downs to choose for your home, visit your local hardware store for their recommendation.
- Install storm shutters for all windows.
- Reinforce your roof.
- Make sure your skirting is secure. If your home's skirting is not properly installed, wind can get under it causing damage it and/or your home.

## Prevent fires

- Keep fire extinguishers in kitchen and by the furnace.
- Replace furnace filters regularly – typically every 3-6 months. It is important to keep in mind that each housing situation is different and is typically based on such things as how often windows are open, pets or smokers in the household, or how often you run a fan.
- Vacuum and clean out the area that contains your furnace every few months.
- Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year.
- Never leave candles, the fireplace, or the stove unattended.
- Always clean the lint out of your dryer vent after each load.
- Keep flammable materials at least three feet from space heaters.
- Clean your vents regularly.
- Once a month, make sure both your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working.

Storms can cause a fair amount of damage to your mobile home. Financially, this can become an overwhelming burden. Fortunately, there is a way to ensure you are covered.

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