

# LARM Storm Preparedness Tips

You know what they say about Nebraska weather, wait 10 minutes and it will change. In Nebraska storms can pop up just as fast. The key to being ready is preparing beforehand. Follow these tips so your community is ready to weather the storm. Remember: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

## Tornados

- Test warning sirens regularly.
- Identify and publicize designated safe areas in public buildings like schools, libraries, and community centers.
- Ensure there is a robust system for broadcasting tornado warnings through multiple channels (social media, local radio, text alerts).

## Hailstorms

- Identify protected locations where municipal vehicles can be parked in the event of a hail warning. Develop a plan and assign employees to ensure this is done.
- Keep equipment in protected locations or take steps to protect equipment that can not be moved inside.

## Post-Storm Actions

- Coordinate with local fire departments, police, and medical services for quick response to storm related incidents.
- After the storm, conduct immediate inspections of all municipal properties for damage or safety hazards.
- Quickly organize repair crews to fix any damage, especially to critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, and utility lines.
- Keep detailed records of any damage for insurance claims and future reference to improve resilience.

## Thunderstorms

- Implement a program for regular tree trimming and removal of hazardous branches, especially near power lines and public buildings, to prevent damage from high winds.
- Ensure stormwater drainage systems are clear and functioning to manage heavy rainfall, reducing flood risks during thunderstorms. Regular maintenance should prevent blockages.
- Ensure that outdoor furniture, equipment, signs, and other movable objects are secured or stored indoors to prevent them from becoming hazards.
- Install surge protectors for critical electronic systems to prevent damage from power surges caused by lightning strikes.
- Ensure backup power systems are in place for essential services like hospitals, emergency operations centers, and water treatment plants.