

SAVE AND POST

CITY OF MANCHESTER SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE



What every Manchester resident should know about storms to protect themselves and their families.

Become familiar with the three levels of storm notices:

- a. **STORM WATCH** (watch, as in keep an eye on the weather) – means that conditions are such that a storm “may” develop. Typically, six hours long.
- b. **STORM WARNING** (warning, as in look out) – means that threatening weather is imminent and in our area. Typically, one hour long.
- c. **DANGER IS EMINENT** – sirens are blown, indoor warning systems are activated, the radio station will put out alerts and cable TV programming will be interrupted. **SEEK SHELTER.** Turn your radio to KMCH (94.7 FM) for rapidly update weather coverage. This includes nights and weekends. This radio station is probably your best source of knowing when the situation has improved.

Have a flashlight and a battery powered radio handy and ready to take to a sheltered area with you. Everyone in the family, including young children, should know where to go in case of a storm.

BE AWARE THAT:

City sirens are meant to be an “outdoor warning system.” They were never intended to be heard in every home or building. The sirens blow for three minutes and indicate that a “life threatening” condition exists. **TAKE COVER.** The sirens are not blown to indicate an “all clear” signal. If they are blown a second or third time it means that another life threatening condition exists. **TAKE COVER!**

An indoor warning system is in place in the schools, hospital, public buildings, several factories, etc. and anyone may join this system by buying the necessary equipment, which costs approximately \$400.

KMCH and the cable TV interrupt system will be used to warn and keep the public informed. If you have a scanner, use it.

Severe thunderstorms can produce straight line winds that can be as dangerous as tornado’s.

The back side of a storm – when conditions look like the danger has passed - are often the source of the most danger. Don’t be in a big hurry to resume activities.

Some storms develop so quickly that they are upon us before there is time to provide warning. In these situations, notification may occur during the storm.

After a storm has passed, stay in your neighborhood and help your neighbors. Additional traffic and sightseers throughout the community often make the situation more dangerous. There are hanging tree limbs, fallen wires, excited people and other dangers for emergency crews to handle without adding extra traffic.

Please do not call the emergency dispatch center during storms unless you need emergency services, need to report an emergency or weather related information. Unnecessary inquiry calls take emergency personnel away from necessary activities.

This information is provided by Manchester Public Safety officials.