



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



➔ THUNDERSTORM AWARENESS

The Heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

What are thunderstorms?

Thunderstorms, refer to large cauliflower-like clouds commonly seen in the summer rainfall areas of South Africa, are violent, local atmospheric disturbance accompanied by lightning, thunder, heavy rain, often by strong gusts of wind (something even tornadoes), and something by hail. A storm normally last for about 30 minutes, but severe storms may last longer. South Africa experiences as very high incidence of thunderstorms, particularly in the summer rainfall regions.



Two key elements which contribute to thunderstorms

- ❖ Warm weather and hot humid summer days which create a significant amount of updrafts/up-currents.
- ❖ A considerable amount of noticeable cumulus clouds.

How do you know that a thunderstorm might occur?

- ❖ When you are in a rainy season, particularly in the summer rainfall regions.
- ❖ You observe big grey cloud formations (the base of the clouds is normally flat).
- ❖ When there is a big thunder cloud in your vicinity and you can feel the wind suddenly changing and blowing cooler air towards you.
- ❖ You can see lightning within the clouds of the storm and also hear far-off rumbling or thunder.
- ❖ When you experience down bursts of rain.

What should you do as the thunderstorm approaches?

- ❖ Listen to the radio for warnings or other information
- ❖ Suspend all outdoor activities by children
- ❖ Shelter pets and cover vehicles
- ❖ Go inside
- ❖ Disconnect all electrical appliances
- ❖ Stay away from tall trees, towers, fences and power and telephone poles



What should you do when the storm strikes?

- ❖ Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows
- ❖ Do not take a shower or bath
- ❖ Avoid using the telephone or cell phone
- ❖ Avoid flooded roadways
- ❖ Avoid contact with metal or conducting surface outside or inside car

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS

Warnings of possible thunderstorms are normally communicated by your local weather office or disaster management centre. If you think a thunderstorm might occur in your area be sure to regularly listen to the radio or watch TV. Also be aware of local disaster management officials making neighbourhood calls through loud speaker. A warning is only as good as your reaction to it.

ALWAYS OBEY AND REACT TO EARLY WARNINGS FROM YOUR LOCAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CENTRE AND YOUR LOCAL WEATHER OFFICE!

NUMBERS TO CONTACT

Mobile phones emergency - 112

Police and fire - 10111

Ambulance - 10177

Disaster Management - 0800 222 111

Disaster management is everybody's business. In case of any Disaster, members of the public are encouraged to report any incident to their district offices or provincial disaster management centre on the toll free number 0800 222 111