

# City of McKinney Office of Emergency Management



## Before, During, and After a Thunderstorm

### Before a Thunderstorm

- Listen for watch and warning information for Collin County and the City of McKinney
- Watch for signs of the approaching storm, like increasing wind, darkening skies, flashes of lightning, sounds of thunder, and static on AM radio frequencies.
- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Get out of boats and swimming pools and stay away from water.
- Remember, if you can hear thunder you are close enough for lightning to strike. Move to a safe shelter immediately.

### During a Thunderstorm

- Move to a sturdy building or car. Avoid small sheds, trees, and convertible top cars.
- Avoid using unnecessary appliances and showering or bathing. Plumbing and metal fixtures can conduct electricity.

If there is no shelter nearby:

- Find a low spot away from trees, poles, and fences. Make sure the place you choose is not prone to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shortest trees you can find.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, this indicates that lightning is about to strike. Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet and place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.

### After a Thunderstorm

- If damage is severe, report damage to your insurance company. Take pictures as soon as it is safe to do so to provide proof of damages.