



# City of Somersworth

## Fire Department

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### SEVERE STORM INFORMATION

This is intended to provide information relative to precautions to take during a severe rain or thunderstorm. More information is available on tornado, snowstorm, and hurricane preparedness on the Fire Department site at the Somersworth home page.

The risks of a severe rain or thunderstorm are:

- lightning strikes
- flood waters
- power loss – perhaps for an extended period
- roof and building damage
- localized high speed wind or mini-tornados
- water and sewer plant may be knocked off-line – no potable water available

It is important that each household have a *Family Emergency Plan* and a *Basic Disaster Supplies Kit*. If you do not have these items, consult [www.nh.gov/ReadyNH](http://www.nh.gov/ReadyNH) to get information on properly designing and practicing an Emergency Plan and what items need to be placed into a Supplies Kit.

Severe storms are known to dump as much as 2 inches of rain or more in a short time period. Storm drains, sewers and runoff areas are easily overcome and roads can become impassable – even undermined. If the water treatment plant is overwhelmed, fresh water supplies can be temporarily halted and a boil order may have to occur before water is restored.

Rivers and streams can become swollen, especially if the storm is north of us as well. These water tributaries will see rapid, cascading water that easily can trap boaters or swimmers. Staying off and away from these sources is the best advice. Residents in low-lying areas adjacent to streams and rivers should expect rising waters possibly to flood stage.

For thunderstorms that can produce severe lightning, do **NOT**:

- stand outside under trees or other objects
- stand in doorways or windows watching the storm

- use electrically powered devices like home phones, computers, hairdryers, etc.
- leave things like umbrellas, chairs, trash cans and other such items loose outdoors (they will become airborne missiles)
- touch any downed wires (they could be live electrical wires and electrocute)

If there are emergency messages from the City, and you are subscribed to our newsletter or have registered previously with the city, you should get some notification. Otherwise the state will contact you through their Reverse 9-1-1 system.