

Alfa Alliance
Presents...



SPRING TIPS



Finally! Spring is here! Although winter's over, storms are not. Spring storms can do just as much damage to your home as ice and snow. Here are some helpful tips on preparing for spring storms whether they be thunderstorms or more serious...



Common Storm Terminology

Tornadoes

"Watch": Weather conditions favorable for forming a tornado

"Warning": A tornado has been sighted/reported touching down

Hurricanes

Category 1: Winds of 74-95 mph

Category 2: Winds of 95-110 mph

Category 3: Winds of 111-130 mph

Category 4: Winds of 131-155 mph

Category 5: Winds of 156 and greater



Preparing for Spring Storms

- Check for loose rain gutters, roof shingles and windows. Secure or bring in any objects such as lawn furniture, toys, potted plants and tools
- Trim back dead limbs on trees close to your house
- Put together a family survival kit including radio (with batteries), flashlight, first-aid kit, medications, fire extinguisher, drinking water, non-perishable foods (plus can opener), blankets and games for you and your children
- Always fill up on gas for your cars
- Have a special meeting place for after a storm if you and your family are separated or not together when the storm hits (remember that telephone lines could be down)
- If authorities tell you to evacuate, DO SO!

During a Storm...

- Remain calm in a basement or interior room or bathroom (or a room without windows)
- If your home is not secure for a severe storm (manufactured home), go to a safe shelter in your community
- Use your family kit to keep up on news about the storm on your battery-powered radio
- DO NOT open a window (it could lead to severe water damages to your home from rain or hail)
- Stay away from power lines that have fallen after a storm
- DO NOT drive or walk through moving water



Spring Tips for Your Home



Lawnmower Safety

- Use a mower that stops if the handle is let go or dropped
- Never allow a child under 12 to use a lawnmower
- Always wear a sturdy pair of shoes
- Have protective eyewear in case of rocks and debris
- Refueling should only happen once the mower is turned off and cooled
- You should always refuel outdoors, not in a garage or shed



"Spring Cleaning" at Home

- Replace furnace filter
- Check the electrical system (trip and reset the circuit breakers)
- Replace smoke/carbon monoxide detector batteries (remove dust from their covers as well)
- Clean out the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper and the space under your dryer (do this one regularly not just in the spring!)
- Replace all extension cords/electrical plugs that may have become brittle or damaged

