

# Sand Storm Safety Tips

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## **BEFORE A SANDSTORM**

Look for darkening skies and increased wind. If you hear thunder then you are close enough to be struck by lightning

- Prepare an emergency kit for safety and survival
- Close windows and doors
- Secure your house, carry out repairs in advance, don't leave sharp objects loose
- Secure outside objects that could blow away and cause damage, eg: Furniture, bins, etc
- Get rid of rotting trunks/broken tree branches that could fall and cause injury or damage
- Monitor radio, TV, newspapers to get latest weather updates and warnings
- Ensure children and pets are indoors

## **DURING A SANDSTORM**

- Continue to keep a watch on local weather updates and warning.
- Stay indoors and off verandas and porches. Avoid all travel if possible
- Unplug unnecessary electrical equipment (to isolate them from the main power supply which may conduct a power surge during a lightning storm). Don't use corded telephones. Mobiles or cordless phones are safe
- Avoid touching plumbing and electrical pipes. Do not use running water. Avoid taking a bath/shower. This is because lightning can travel along pipes
- Stay away from structures with tin roofs/metal sheeting
- Keep away from doors, windows, fireplaces, bath tubs, or any electrical charge conductors
- Don't take shelter near/under trees
- Stay put if you are inside a car/bus/covered vehicle
- Don't use metallic objects, stay away from power/telephone lines
- Get out of the water - pools, lakes, small boats - and take shelter immediately