

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO
GEORGIA
STORM PREP



GenSpring
POWER®

Severe Weather Emergency Plan For Georgia Residents & Homeowners

Georgia is known for having a very diverse forecast. In North Georgia, we see it all. In the winter months, we are no stranger to ice storms, heavy snow and hail. In the spring and summer months, we experience tornadoes as well as severe thunderstorms accompanied by damaging winds and flash floods. According to the National Climatic Data Center, North Georgia sees an average of 75 inches of rain each year! On top of the wide array of severe weather possibilities, our skies can be rather unpredictable. At GenSpring, we can't control the weather, but we can give you knowledgeable advice to help you prepare as best you can for severe weather in Atlanta and Northern Georgia.



Pre-Storm: The Checklist

Prep Work for Severe Weather in the Spring

Preparing your home can help replace the fear of the unknown with the comfort of knowing you will be ready and safe when that storm does come through. One of the biggest steps in this phase is to ensure your home is in ideal shape. The easiest way to do this is to have your home regularly inspected. This includes checking the roof, siding, windows and other parts of the exterior for any vulnerabilities. Keeping your rain gutters clear is another crucial component, as you want heavy rains to flow out and away from your home during a flash flood. Your home's exterior is the first line of defense against any natural threat, so make sure it is in tip-top shape at all times. Additionally, if your home is within close proximity to tree branches, be sure they are properly trimmed. The last thing you want during a storm is for a strong gust of wind to send a tree branch through your bedroom window. To prevent additional damage to your property, bring any outside furniture, decor or anything else you own inside. Lastly, be sure you are signed up or subscribed to any severe weather alerts via email or phone so you are always in the know.

Prep Work For Severe Weather In The Winter

Northern Georgia experiences more snow and ice than any other part of the state. This kind of weather keeps people off the road and therefore away from crucial resources. If you know you are in for a snow or ice storm, make a run to the store in advance to ensure you have enough food, water and warmth prior to the storm hitting. Some additional things to check off before the storm hits include checking your home's insulation. The last thing you want is to let the freezing cold in when your power has gone out. Reduce high draft areas, such as doors leading outside and garage doors to keep the warmth in and the cold out!



During The Storm: Do's and Dont's

Georgia is prone to several different kinds of weather and each kind requires different procedures when the storm hits.



Thunderstorms:

Do not use any electrical equipment that plugs into an outlet as the wire can conduct lightning. As metal pipes are also conductors of lightning, refrain from using the sink, shower or any other kind of water source that runs through the pipes of your home. This includes laundry machines! As high winds can shatter the glass in your home, stay away from windows, skylights and doors containing glass.

Tornadoes:

The first thing to do when under a tornado watch or warning is to head to the lowest level of your home. Find a space without windows and has the thickest exterior encompassing where you are sitting. Corners of rooms are not safe because they are more prone to falling debris. The center of the room is the best place to sit. If you cannot see the tornado, listen for it. You will know if the tornado is nearby if you hear a loud roaring or rumbling sound. If you hear this sound increasing, take cover under a sturdy item - a bench or desk will do- and set on your knees with your forehead touching the floor and your hands clasped around the back of your neck.



Snow/Ice Storms:

The first rule of thumb during a snow or ice storm is to never leave your home if possible. Roads are extremely dangerous in this weather if they have not been cleared yet. Never use a gas stovetop or an oven as a source of heat. This increases your risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. If you do go outside, limit the amount of time you spend exposed to freezing temperatures, always let someone know you are leaving the house and of course dress warmly in layers.



Post Storm: Followup Care

The very first thing to do after any kind of severe weather is check in on neighbors and loved ones. Ensuring their safety and providing any necessary support is a very important first step to recovering from a storm. Next, assess the damage. Your home just went through a lot. Put on some work boots or other sturdy, close toed shoes and take a look around outside to evaluate the damage. Finally, if you suffered through a power outage during the storm because you didn't have a generator from Genspring, call us today!

