

SELF SUFFICIENCY IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



HAIL

HAIL FACTS

- Hail is primarily an afternoon or evening phenomenon in Colorado. Most severe hailstorms occur between 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. MDT.
- Hailstorms rarely last more than 15 minutes. The median duration is six minutes.
- The most common size for damaging hail is 1 to 1.5 inches in diameter. The most common size for hail in Colorado is 1/4".
- The largest documented hailstone fell in Kansas. It was 5.5" in diameter and weighed nearly two pounds.
- Large hailstones fall at speeds faster than 100 mph.

WHAT TO DO ...

The hail season in Colorado is March through October, with June having the higher frequency of storms producing hail. You'll find the majority of hail storms along the Front Range to the eastern plains.

IF YOU ARE IN AN AUTOMOBILE

Stop driving. If you can see a safe place close by (like inside a garage, under a highway overpass, or under a service station awning), drive there as soon as you can. Make sure you pull completely off the highway.

Do NOT leave the vehicle until it stops hailing. Your car will furnish reasonable protection.

Stay away from car windows. Cover your eyes with something (like a piece of clothing). If possible, get onto the floor face down, or lie down on the seat with your back to the windows. Put very small children under you, and cover their eyes.

IF YOU ARE IN A BUILDING

Stay inside until the hail stops.

Stay away from the windows, especially those being struck by hail.

Account for all family members, building occupants, pets, etc.

Do not go outside for any reason. Large hail can cause serious or even fatal injuries.

Avoid using phones and electrical appliances during a severe storm to avoid the danger of electrocution from lightning.

IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS

If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter immediately. If you can't find something to protect your entire body, at least find something to protect your head.

Stay out of culverts and lowland areas that might fill suddenly with water.

Trees are a last resort. It is common during severe storms for trees to lose branches. Also, large isolated trees attract lightning.

HAIL AND THUNDERSTORMS

Hail is both destructive to vegetation and manmade structures. Hail is classified as severe by the National Weather Service if it is equal to or greater than 3/4" in diameter.

There is no clear distinction between storms that do and do not produce hailstones. Nearly all severe thunderstorms probably produce hail aloft, though it may melt before reaching the ground. It is difficult to pinpoint where exactly a large hail shaft will strike, but it mostly occurs with supercell thunderstorms.