

# Severe Weather & Your Healthcare Facility

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# Objectives

- Discuss weather threats related to healthcare facilities
- Discuss how to react to threats at healthcare facilities
- Discuss emergency response plans

# Detection

- Satellites
- Radar systems
- Doplar radar
- Computer models
- Ensemble forecasting

# Forecasting

- NOAA - National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
  - weather radio, Skywarn, Storm Prediction Center, NWS Forecast office
- NSSL – National Severe Storms Laboratory
- Alert Radios 24/7
- Direct Line to local NWS

# WATCH

**Conditions are favorable**

**Prepare for response**

# WARNING

**Conditions are imminent**

**Serious threat**

**Act immediately**

# Weather Spotters Course

- Contact the National Weather Service or your county Emergency Manager

# Thunderstorms

- 100,000 - 200,000 thunder storms each year in US
- Common to produce; Tornadoes, Flooding, Hail, Winds, & Lightning
- 10% - 20% of these storms are considered severe
- Most commonly occur in the spring & summer
- Most occur in the afternoon or evening hours



# Wind

- Damage to building / windows
- Blow down trees / antennas / towers
- Positive pressure into building

# Hail

- Damage to building / windows
- Danger to people
- Walking hazard

# Flooding

- Flash Flooding possible anywhere
- Enters building – lower level compromised
- Requires an army of responders
- Generator location ?

# Lightning

- Damage to the building
- Damage to radio towers / antennas
- Power Failures

# Tornado

- Activation of internal Tornado alert
- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls
- Gather patient medical records/chart
- Gather patient meds
- Cautious about moving the critical patient
- Basement considerations

# Ice Storm

- Traffic accidents on roads
- Delay in staff getting in for shift
- Slips, trips and falls
- Home care patients
- Power failures

# Snow Storm / Blizzard

- Staff restrictions for shift work
- Patients can't make it to the ER
- Home Care Patients
- Deliveries (food, water, medical supplies)

# Extreme Heat & Cold Conditions

- HVAC with building
- Possible evacuations
- Home Care Patients
- Back up power



# Other Considerations

- Cell Phones
- Redundant Communications
- Analog Systems
- Media alerts
- BT WAN for communications

# QUESTIONS ?

## THANK YOU !



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