

# RV Severe Weather, Shelter & Evacuation

Free download · 5 sections

A hazard-led checklist for alerts, substantial shelter, early evacuation, go-bags, pets, exit routes, and post-event checks.

## Important safety notice

This checklist is a general memory aid for people already familiar with their equipment. It is not operating instruction, training, inspection, certification, or a determination that an RV is safe or roadworthy. It cannot account for your equipment, loading, condition, environment, or applicable law. Follow current manuals, labels, and qualified guidance. Stop when a condition or required check is unclear, unsafe, damaged, or cannot be verified; get qualified or emergency help as appropriate.

## Prepare Before Weather Arrives

- ☐ **Trusted forecast, watches, warnings, and local alerts enabled**  
Use more than a single phone or app when power or coverage may fail.
- ☐ **Substantial shelter located and access confirmed**  
Ask where it is, when it opens, how long the route takes, and whether pets are allowed.
- ☐ **Two exit routes checked for gates, low points, and congestion**
- ☐ **Weather radio and backup power tested · If available**
- ☐ **Vehicle keys, fuel, footwear, and lights ready**
- ☐ **Go-bag holds medicines, documents, water, and first aid**  
Add head protection, communication power, child, pet, and accessibility supplies.
- ☐ **Meeting point, emergency contact, and accountability method set**

### STOP

An RV is not reliable tornado or damaging-wind shelter. Reach substantial shelter before conditions make the route unsafe.

## Tornado, Wind, Lightning & Hail

- ☐ **Shelter plan activated early enough for the full party**  
A watch may be the practical departure trigger when shelter is distant.
- ☐ **People move to the identified substantial shelter · Tornado or damaging-wind threat**
- ☐ **Interior lowest-floor shelter used away from windows · In a substantial building**
- ☐ **Head and body protected from flying debris · In shelter**
- ☐ **Lightning shelter reached before exposed activity continues**

- ☐ **Awning and exterior gear stowed before evacuation urgency · If time and conditions are safe**  
Do not trade evacuation time for property protection.

**STOP**

Do not stay in the RV for tornado or damaging-wind danger. Do not shelter under an overpass or delay movement to save exterior equipment.

## Wildfire, Smoke & Flash Flood

- ☐ **Official evacuation status and incident map monitored**
- ☐ **Wildfire escape route points away from fire and smoke**  
Keep a second route; wind and closures can invalidate the first.
- ☐ **Flash-flood route avoids washes and low crossings**  
Rain upstream can create danger at a dry campsite.
- ☐ **Rig moved early when authorities or conditions direct · When movement remains safe**
- ☐ **Cabin-air plan accounts for smoke and vulnerable occupants · Smoke event**  
Follow public-health guidance and relocate when the RV does not provide suitable air.
- ☐ **Campfire, stove, and hot materials extinguished if safe · Before leaving**

**STOP**

Obey evacuation orders and closures. Do not drive through floodwater, enter a smoke-obscured route, or wait for visible flames before leaving.

## Heat, Cold & Power Loss

- ☐ **Interior temperature tracked where people or pets rest**
- ☐ **Cooling or warming backup does not rely on one power source**  
Identify a conditioned building or relocation option before the system fails.
- ☐ **Hydration, medicines, and temperature-sensitive supplies checked**
- ☐ **Generator use follows the CO-safe generator checklist · If equipped**
- ☐ **Freeze exposure compared with plumbing and battery limits**  
Use the exact RV, appliance, and battery instructions; travel wind can increase exposure.
- ☐ **Relocation trigger set before cabin conditions become unsafe**

**STOP**

Move people and pets to a safe temperature for heat illness, dangerous cold, failed climate control, a CO alarm, or generator exhaust exposure.

## Account & Inspect Afterward

- ☐ **Party accounted for; injuries and urgent medical needs addressed**
- ☐ **Official updates checked before leaving shelter or returning**
- ☐ **Downed wires, floodwater, fire, fuel, and unstable trees avoided**
- ☐ **RV inspected remotely for movement, impact, and visible leaks**  
Approach from a safe direction and keep others back until hazards are excluded.
- ☐ **Shore power, propane, and generator remain off if damaged · As equipped**
- ☐ **Roadworthiness checked before the RV is moved**  
Include tires, wheels, roof gear, hitch, brakes, lights, and fluid leaks.
- ☐ **Damage, alerts, decisions, and missing supplies documented**

**QUALIFIED HELP**

Use emergency services and qualified utility, fire, recovery, electrical, propane, structural, or chassis help before approaching or energizing damaged equipment.