

Severe Weather Resources:

While the Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition RHCC works diligently to bring you notifications of relevant emergency events upon awareness, it should NOT supplement your facility's first line ability for monitoring, evaluation, and notification of risks and threats to your facility. This is especially important in severe weather situation and no notice events such as tornadoes or flash flooding.

Just as we coach our community to "Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved" ... your facility too can follow Ready.gov's program for preparedness!

BE INFORMED: There are several ways to ensure your facility is receiving information pertinent for your emergency operations plan to be carried out safely and effectively:

Have redundant systems and staff assigned to receive alerts / monitor for events!

1. NOAA Weather Radio:



A physical asset, the NOAA Weather Radio is an automated 24-hour network of VHF FM weather radio stations in the United States that broadcast weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office.

2. Online Monitoring:

Frequent regulated and scientific sources for information prior and during an event.

- National Weather Services- <https://www.weather.gov/alerts>
- The Weather Channel - <https://weather.com/maps/severealerts>
- Local News Agencies / Media Coverage

3. Sign up for additional services:

- There are many for-profit alerting companies available
- Desktop and mobile applications
- Email and/or Text Alerts
- Contact your local large business, airport, university, or police division to discuss current membership and benefits.

- Ex: Accuweather, RadarScope, Dark Sky, WeatherTAP
- Multi-purpose/ Mass notification companies:
 - i. Everbridge ([SMART Weather](#))
 - ii. [ALERTUS](#)
 - iii. [OnSolve](#)



4. Wireless Emergency Alerts:

“Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier. Government partners include local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service. No signup is required! Alerts are sent automatically to WEA-capable phones during an emergency.”

- Automated cellular alerts sent to your cellular phone regarding imminent threats and AMBER alerts.
- Ensure it is enabled (opt-in vs opt-out)

Know the ALERTS:

NWS alerts that are used to warn of severe weather, flood and tornado hazards include:

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** - Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm. Gather family members and pets and take shelter immediately. Have your emergency supply kit ready and continue to monitor your NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for more information.
- **Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

- **Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.
- **Flood Watch** - Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
- **Flash Flood Watch** - Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
- **Flood Warning** - Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- **Flash Flood Warning** - A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately. Do not attempt to drive into flooded areas or walk through moving water.