

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A STORM

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Get inside a solid building and stay there until the all-clear. Caught outside in a thunderstorm, a closed car is the next best place; a bus stop, a tent or a tree is not.
- 2** Keep away from windows, doors and skylights. The safest spot is a central room on the ground floor.
- 3** Bring in or tie down anything the wind can lift: garden furniture, parasols, bins, trampolines. Never go on the roof.
- 4** Close the shutters and windows. Unplug electronics you do not need, and stay off the landline phone while there is lightning.
- 5** Stay off the roads and out of the woods. If you really must travel, slow down, avoid wooded roads and tell someone your route.
- 6** Expect the power to go. Get the torch, radio and power bank out, tune to **RTL, 100.7**, and read **Power is out**.
- 7** Call **112** for injuries, or for fallen trees and debris only if they seriously block a road. Report any fire.

BEFORE

READ THE WARNINGS

- An orange wind warning means gusts of **90–110 km/h**: limit journeys, secure the garden, keep out of the woods. A red warning means gusts above **110 km/h**: stay at home if you can. The levels are explained on **Alerts and sirens**.
- Thunderstorm warnings cover hail and heavy rain as well as wind. If water starts rising, switch to **Flooding**.
- Lightning rule: if the thunder follows the flash in under **30 seconds**, take shelter

now. Stay inside until **30 minutes** after the last thunder.

PREPARE THE HOME

- Check the roof, gutters, shutters and anything fixed outside before the autumn storms. Have dead or overhanging branches near the house cut back.
- Know where garden furniture, bikes, bins and plant pots go in a hurry, and who does it if you are at work.
- Park the car away from trees if you have the choice.

- Write down who collects the children and how everyone gets home if roads, trains or buses stop.

STOCK THE BASICS

- The same kit as for a power cut: **1** torch per person with **2** spare sets of batteries, a battery or wind-up radio, a charged power bank, cash, and medicines for at least **7 days**.
- Water: **4 L** per person per day, for **72 hours**.
- Keep the car at least $\frac{1}{2}$ full. See the **car kit checklist**.

AFTER

- Wait for the all-clear before you go out. Watch for loose tiles, broken branches and hanging cables. Treat any fallen cable as live and keep well away from it.
- Stay off the roof. Make emergency repairs from inside and leave the roof to professionals.
- Check on the neighbours, especially older people and anyone living alone.
- Photograph the damage before you clear up. The insurer will ask for it.
- If the power is out, follow **Power is out**. If water has come in, follow **Flooding**.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- Keep them inside and away from the windows. Counting the seconds between flash and thunder together gives them something to do, and tells you whether the storm is moving away.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A

DISABILITY

- Do the shopping and move appointments before the warning starts, and plan to stay in for the day. If you depend on powered equipment, agree a backup plan with your doctor now.

WITH PETS

- Bring them inside before the wind picks up. Afterwards, keep dogs on the lead:

there will be glass, debris and cables on the ground.

IN A FLAT ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR

- The wind is stronger high up. Clear the balcony completely, washing and plant pots included. The lift may stop, so plan for the stairs.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

 Stay inside a strong building.

 Keep away from windows and trees.


Have a torch ready. The power may go off.



Listen to the radio for the all-clear.



Call for help if someone is hurt.

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