

Southern Pines Police Department
Safety Tips
Weather Preparedness

It seems like there is always the potential for severe weather in the Sandhills. Let's remember to take reasonable precautions to prepare for severe weather conditions. Start by looking at the outside of your property to see what steps you should take now to prepare. Deck furniture and other loose items should be covered and secured. Remove the umbrella and put it in a garage, basement or under the deck. Check your gas grill for worn parts that might not make it through the cold winter and replace them now. Make sure the propane tank is turned OFF each time you are done using the grill. Toys and other things should be removed and put in a safe place. Check siding, roof shingles and fences for loose parts and have them fixed while the weather is still good. Consider preventative maintenance on driveways, walkways and other parts of the property. While you are thinking about preparing the outside, also think about the inside. Not the building, but the occupants. Do you have enough food and water for a few days if a power outage or severe weather occurs? Do you have a way to open cans and keep informed without electricity? A handheld can opener and a battery operated radio or television is good to keep handy. Flashlights are better than candles, which can be a fire hazard, but make sure you have enough fresh batteries to power them all. Keep a supply of medications you might need as well and, as you use these items, have a system for replacing them to levels you might need in an emergency. If you plan to cook using your gas grill, a camp stove or other non-traditional method, remember to do so outside. NEVER bring these appliances indoors to cook since they are not designed to be used in this manner and are not properly vented. Are you planning on using a generator during the emergency? The same goes; NEVER bring a generator inside your home or garage. The fumes from the exhaust can be deadly. Generators must be fully vented to the outside and, since they get hot, they are best left at least ten feet away from any structure. Severe weather might not hit us on a regular basis, but there is always a potential so plan now. You and your family will be better prepared to "weather" the storm in a safe manner.

For more information or a presentation on this topic, contact the Community Services Coordinator at (910) 692-2732.