



Windstorms

Most types of severe weather have the potential for generating dangerous winds any time of the year.

The Pacific Northwest has experienced many violent windstorms including: the Columbus Day Storm (1962), the November 1981 Windstorm, the Inaugural Day Storm (1993), the Windstorm of December 1995 and most recently the Windstorm of December 2007.



Common items such as cans, bottles, signs, trees, glass, roof shingles, lawn furniture, and toys can become flying debris (or projectiles) in high winds. They frequently cause severe property damage as well as major injuries and even death.

The extent of damage that a storm may cause is based on its wind speed.

Wind Speed and Effects

25-31 mph	Large branches will be in motion.
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion.
39-54 mph	Twigs and small branches may break off trees; wind generally impedes progress when walking; taller vehicles may be difficult to control.
55-74 mph	Potential damage to antennas; may push over shallow-rooted trees.
74-95 mph	Potential for minimal structural damage, particularly to unanchored mobile homes; power lines and signs may be blown down.
96-110 mph	Moderate structural damage to walls, roofs and windows; large signs and trees blown down; moving vehicles pushed off roads.
111-130 mph	Extensive structural damage to walls, roofs and windows; mobile homes may be destroyed.
131-155 mph	Extreme damage to structures and roofs; trees uprooted or snapped.
Greater than 155 mph	Catastrophic damage; structures destroyed.

BEFORE HIGH WINDS OCCUR

- ✓ Identify a shelter or safe area in your home, away from windows, that will provide you with maximum protection.
- ✓ Locate utility shutoff locations and show family members how to turn them off when necessary.
- ✓ Identify items that must be secured or brought inside during high winds and severe weather.
- ✓ Discuss what to do in case the power goes out or someone gets injured.
- ✓ Assemble an emergency kit. Be sure to include flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, and a manual can opener.
- ✓ Keep some non-perishable packaged or canned food on hand.

WHEN HIGH WINDS HAVE BEEN FORECAST

- ✓ Fill family vehicles with fuel.
- ✓ Anchor outdoor objects that can blow away, such as garbage cans, hanging plants, and lawn furniture or move them inside.

DURING HIGH WINDS

- ✓ Stay indoors and away from windows.
- ✓ Do not drive unless absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Stay away from downed power lines.
- ✓ Stay tuned to a local radio or TV station for additional weather and emergency information.



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DRIVING

Avoid driving when very high winds are predicted or present.

High winds can easily push a car off the road. The larger the vehicle, the more susceptible it will be to the force of the wind.

If you are driving when high winds occur, pull safely off the road and seek shelter in a building. Being in a parked car is safer than being outside; however, being in a building is safer than being in a car.

During and after periods of high winds, be cautious of debris in the roadway and downed or low-hanging utility wires.

If you see a power line on the ground, **DO NOT TOUCH** it with anything. Expect every power line to be "live."

If a power line falls across your vehicle, **DO NOT GET OUT!** Take care not to touch any of the metal frame. Honk your horn, roll down the window and warn anyone who may approach of the danger. Ask someone to call the police and wait until emergency help arrives.

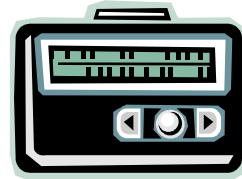
To report downed power lines call Cowlitz PUD:
(360) 423-2210 or WA toll free 1-(800) 631-1131



KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER



For the latest weather information, tune to your local radio or TV station. Listening to a NOAA weather radio will also provide current and forecasted weather information. The National Weather Service operates these stations and provides listeners with continuous updates 24 hours a day.



A **Wind Advisory** is issued when sustained winds are forecast to be 31-39 MPH or gusts will range between 45-57 MPH. Winds of these magnitudes may cause minor property damage. Motorists in high profile vehicles should use caution until winds subside.

A **High Wind Warning** means a hazardous high wind event is expected or occurring. Sustained wind speeds of at least 40 MPH or gusts of 58 MPH or more can lead to property damage.

For further information:

SAME#'s, Frequencies and Call Signs in Washington State by County:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/CntyCov/nwrWA.htm>

Coverage maps for Washington State:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/states/washington.html>