RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

SELA SPECIAL SERIES | MINI-GUIDE

THUNDERSTORMS AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

KEY KNOWLEDGE FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Practical recommendations to prevent risks, protect lives, and strengthen community resilience in the face of severe weather events.



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

PREVENTION | PREPAREDNESS | PROTECTION AND RESPONSE | RECOVERY | REGIONAL COOPERATION

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PREVENTION

KNOW THE RISKS AND REDUCE THEM

Prevention helps anticipate the risks of thunderstorms and other severe weather events, reduce vulnerability, and protect communities.

Stay informed about weather conditions.

Check official forecasts and alerts on thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, strong winds, and hail.

Identify risks in your area.

Recognize areas prone to flooding, falling trees, landslides, and lightning strikes.

Recognize warning signs.

Pay attention to sudden changes in the weather, the formation of storm clouds, and official warnings.

Protect your home and surroundings.

Check roofs, windows, trees, and vulnerable structures. Keep drainage systems clear and avoid loose objects that can be blown away by the wind.

Share information and promote prevention.

Disseminate official recommendations, take part in community initiatives, and help build a culture of prevention.



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PREPAREDNESS

PLAN AND COORDINATE THE RESPONSE

Preparedness helps anticipate the risks of thunderstorms and other severe weather events, organize actions, and strengthen the response capacity of communities.

1. ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY.

Assign responsibilities and establish communication channels with authorities and local organizations.

2. KNOW THE ALERTS AND PROTOCOLS.

Identify official alerts and follow the guidance from the authorities to act promptly.

3. PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN.

Establish evacuation routes, safe locations, and family and community communication mechanisms.

4. GET THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES.

Prepare an emergency kit with a flashlight, radio, batteries, drinking water, and essential supplies.

5. AGREE ON HOW TO ACT.

Coordinate community actions, identify people who need support, and establish how to report risk situations.

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PROTECTION

KEEP YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR SURROUNDINGS SAFE

During thunderstorms and other severe weather events, follow these recommendations to protect your life, your health, and your community.



1. SEEK SHELTER IN A SAFE PLACE.

Stay indoors, under a sturdy roof, and in a fully enclosed building.



2. AVOID ELECTRICAL RISKS.

Stay away from windows, metal objects, and electrical equipment.



3. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY RAIN.

Avoid areas with trees, unstable structures, and places prone to flooding.



4. STAY INFORMED.

Follow official alerts and recommendations through radio, television, or digital media.



5. LOOK OUT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

Make sure your family and neighbors are safe and support those who need assistance.



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RESPONSE

ACT CALMLY AND COORDINATE YOUR RESPONSE

During a thunderstorm or other severe weather event, act with caution, follow official guidance, and prioritize people's safety.

1. FOLLOW THE AUTHORITIES' GUIDANCE.

Pay attention to official alerts and comply with protection or evacuation instructions.

2. SEEK SHELTER AND AVOID EXPOSURE.

Stay in a safe, sturdy building. Keep away from windows, trees, utility poles, and unstable structures.

3. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ELECTRICAL RISKS.

Avoid handling connected equipment, electrical installations, or downed power lines. Do not go near flooded areas.

4. SHARE INFORMATION AND COORDINATE ASSISTANCE.

Provide updates on emergencies, damage, and people who need support. Work with response organizations.



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RECOVERY

RECOVER AND STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY'S RESILIENCE

Recovery requires coordination and time. Restore services, support affected people, and rebuild with resilience criteria to reduce future risks.



1. FOLLOW OFFICIAL GUIDANCE.

Check the instructions from the authorities before returning to affected areas and starting recovery.

2. CHECK SAFETY CONDITIONS.

Avoid damaged structures, downed power lines, flooding, and other hazards. Do not enter unsafe areas.

3. RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

Support the recovery of water, electricity, communications, and other basic services.

4. SUPPORT COMMUNITY RECOVERY.

Coordinate efforts with neighbors, authorities, and response organizations to address the needs of affected people.

5. REBUILD WITH RESILIENCE.

Promote solutions that reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen preparedness for future severe weather events.

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REGIONAL COOPERATION

JOINT RESPONSES FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Severe weather events require cooperation among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Sharing information, knowledge, and capacities strengthens prevention, response, and recovery.

1. STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AMONG COUNTRIES.

Promote regional dialogue and the coordination of actions in the face of severe weather events.

2. SHARE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES.

Exchange data, experiences, and alerts to improve prevention and response.

3. PROMOTE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.

Strengthen scientific and technical cooperation to understand risks and develop solutions.

4. ADVANCE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.

Support the development of early warning systems, monitoring tools, and risk reduction strategies.

5. BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

Foster joint efforts among governments, regional and international organizations, scientific institutions, and communities.



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THUNDERSTORMS AND OTHER SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS: PREPARE AND RESPOND

Understanding the risks, preparing together, and responding in a coordinated way helps protect lives and build **more resilient communities**.



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LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

More and Better Integration