



Dust Storms Safety Tips

Before

- *Monitor your television, radio or cell phone for weather conditions.
- *Dust Storm Watch: Tells you when and where dust storms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to your weather radio, commercial radio, television or cell phone for information.
- *Dust Storm Warning: Issued when visibility is 1/2 mile or less due to blowing dust or sand, and wind speeds of 30 miles an hour or more.

Indoors

- *Staying indoors as much as possible.
- *Closing windows and doors.
- *Consider turning off air conditioning until dust storm passes.
- *Bring pets indoors or safe area outside.

Outdoors

- *Seek shelter.
- *Dust storms often accompany severe winds, thunderstorms and can lead to flash flooding.
- *Avoid trees and low lying areas.
- *Protect your face, nose, mouth and any exposed skin (mask designed to block dust particles).
- *Get as low to the ground as possible far away from roads and freeways.

During

- *Avoid driving into or through a dust storm.
- *Immediately check traffic around your vehicle (front, back and to the side) and begin slowing down.
- *Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway, do it as soon as possible. Completely exit the highway if you can.
- *Do not stop in a travel lane or in the emergency lane. Look for a safe place to pull completely off the paved portion of the roadway.
- *Turn off all vehicle lights, including your emergency flashers. You do not want other vehicles approaching from behind to use your lights as a guide, possibly crashing into your parked vehicle.
- *Set your emergency brake and take your foot off the brake.
- *Stay in the vehicle with your seatbelts buckled and wait for the storm to pass.
- *Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be especially aware of changing weather conditions and travel at reduced speeds.

After

- *Follow instructions from the National Weather Service about additional hazardous conditions that may be expected.
- *If you are pulled over in a vehicle, check traffic and carefully return the roadway.
- *Drive with caution. Anticipate traffic light outages and obstacles in the road.