



## **THUNDERSTORM SAFETY IN THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGION**

Most of the U.S. will experience thunderstorms from time to time. Southwest Georgia is the perfect region for thunderstorms because its warm and humid conditions are highly favorable for storm development.

A thunderstorm is characterized by the presence of lightning and thunder, and it is usually accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain and occasionally, snow, sleet or hail. They may occur as single storms, in a cluster, or in lines. Most thunderstorms produce heavy rain for a brief period, anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. However, the most severe damage occurs when a single storm affects one location for an extended period of time. Downburst winds, large hailstones and flash flooding commonly cause the damage resulting from a thunderstorm.

“Extreme weather can be a danger to yourself, your home, and your belongings,” says Sarah Baggett, CNS Marketing Director. “Severe thunderstorms have the potential to also cause damage to CNS equipment, including modems and cable boxes. There are things our customers can do before, during and after a storm to ensure their equipment and property remains safe.”

Before a storm, unplug all electronic equipment, including cable boxes, televisions and Wi-Fi devices. During a storm, it is important to avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords, including devices plugged in for recharging. “Hopefully, you’ve already unplugged your electronic devices, as electrical surges can occur during a storm,” said Baggett.

After the storm, you should always stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately. “Downed power lines carry a huge risk of electrocution if any part of your body makes contact with them,” said Baggett.

Baggett said while these are just a few tips to keep electronic devices working properly, it is also important to practice personal safety during thunderstorms. “Remember the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule,” said Baggett. “Look for lightning and go indoors if you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder; stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last thunder-clap.”

“CNS works as safely and quickly as possible to restore services lost during a storm,” says Baggett. “Restoring service to our customers in a safe and efficient manner is our top priority.”

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