



DISASTER DIGEST

DDM NEWSLETTER 2ND EDITION
OCTOBER 2025



**DIRECTORATE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**

DISASTER DIGEST

DDM NEWSLETTER
(2nd EDITION October 2025)

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Considering the Vulnerability profile of A&N Islands and aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami of 26th December, 2004, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration engaged a skeleton of staff strength from Relief operation for establishment of a separate Department of Disaster Management during 2006 for disaster preparedness, response, Mitigation, Relief & Rehabilitation. The Department was entrusted with the implementation of the Disaster Management Action Plan, which includes coordination, policy-making, operations management, data collection, record keeping, Information, Education and Communication activities, public information, preparedness, community based disaster preparedness, training to all levels of the community, establishing of adequate warning systems, apprising the situation from time to time to the Union Territory Disaster Management Authority and to the National Disaster Management Authority.

A separate department of Directorate of Disaster Management came up during 2009-10 initially from a Type-IV quarter allotted for the purpose. During 2011, DDM has been shifted to the 2nd floor of Anti-corruption building and established State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) with State of Art communication facilities for round the clock functioning for monitoring, observing, analysing the hazardous situations that occurs in and around the world and disseminates the incidents based on its potentiality to members of UTDMA, UTDMEC and DDMA for safeguarding the life and properties for a disaster resilient Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Separate Financial Plan 2009-10 and Andaman Nicobar Island Disaster Management Plan - 2012 has also been formulated by the department. The A&N Islands Disaster Management Plan has been reviewed and updated in coordination with all stakeholders, PRIs and National Disaster Management Authority during 2016 in accordance with the guidelines of National Disaster Management Authority and as per the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.



Mock Drills in all Departments of A&N Administration on Monthly basis

04

In Inter-Departmental Senior Officer Review Meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, it is directed to conduct Table Top exercise and Mock Drill in all respective Department on quarterly and then Monthly basis in coordination with resource departments (District Administration, Police, Fire, Health, APWD, Transport, Electricity and Disaster Management). This Mock exercise involves participation of department staffs to test their disaster response readiness.

The drill scenario, activities and formation of teams and their roles and responsibilities were finalized during a Table Top Exercise. The Mock drill commenced with a simulated earthquake and fire scenario. Staff followed the "Drop, Cover, and Hold" protocol for earthquake safety and safely evacuated the building to a designated safe area. Section in-charges conducted a headcount and reported any missing persons to the Incident Commander (IC).

The IC promptly activated response teams to coordinate with the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC - 1070), District Emergency Operation Center (DEOCS/A-1077), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), and resource departments. Search and rescue operations were carried out for the missing persons, and first aid was provided to the injured. The fire tender and ambulance arrived on time, and the drill concluded with an "All Clear" message from the Incident Commander.

This program is concluded by the debriefing session, this session is a crucial component of the program, where all observers share their views and points of view. This session provides an opportunity for participants to discuss what went well and what didn't, and to identify areas for improvement. It was emphasized that strengthening disaster management capacity remains a priority, and upcoming mock drills will continue to assess and improve preparedness.



Rural Development & Panchayat



Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs



Education Dept. & RCS Dept.



Directorate of Social Welfare



Fisheries Department



Labour & Employment Dept.



SVP Municipal Council



Chief Pay & Accounts Office



Directorate of Shipping Services



Electricity Department



Directorate of Agriculture



Andaman Public Work Department



PCCF, Van Sadan



Directorate of Industries



Directorate of IP&T



Directorate of Health Services



Directorate of Transport



Directorate of Tribal Welfare



Registrar Cooperative Society Dept.



Port Management Board

Sensitisation and Awareness Activity 07

in the Islands

In a continued effort to strengthen community-level disaster preparedness across South Andaman, the Directorate of Disaster Management, in coordination with Health Department, Fire & Emergency Services, Municipal Council, NDRF, and other line departments, conducted a series of Sensitization and Awareness Programmes on Disaster Preparedness at Shadipur , Sippighat, Haddo and Calicut.

The programmes aimed to enhance the capacity of local communities, Panchayat representatives, and volunteers by equipping them with essential knowledge and practical skills to effectively respond to emergencies and natural disasters. More than 200 participants, including community residents, ward councilors, Panchayat staff, Anganwadi workers, SHG members, and MGNREGA staff, attended these awareness sessions.

Officials highlighted the vulnerability of the islands to natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, and tsunamis, emphasizing the significance of community participation in disaster risk reduction and preparedness.





The Health Department focused on the importance of basic medical knowledge and demonstrated first aid and CPR techniques, while the Fire Department conducted live demonstrations on household fire safety and firefighting methods. The NDRF teams imparted Search and Rescue (SAR) and Medical First Responder (MFR) training, empowering community volunteers with life-saving skills. Senior officials, addressed the gatherings, stressing the need for grassroots-level preparedness to minimize disaster impacts in the A&N Islands. The Ward Councilors, Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Members, and Panchayat representatives appreciated the initiative and urged sustained community participation in such programmes.

The sessions concluded with expressions of gratitude from local representatives and nodal officers, who commended the joint efforts of all participating departments. The programme was well-received by the communities and is expected to significantly enhance local resilience and disaster response capabilities across the region.



Forest Fire at Shanu Village, Kamorta

On 10.02.2025, a forest fire broke out at Shanu village, Kamorta, Extinguished the fire by beating method with the help of PS, Forest, APWD & AC office staffs. Fire was spread about 3000 Square Meter an area of land belongs to Sh. Abdul. Cause of fire careless smoking. No loss of life & property. Fire under control. Info. received from FS Kamorta.



On 20.02.2025, Information was received from FS Ferrargunj that during a burial at Singal Pahar Port Mout Radder Station, fire spread to nearby bushes and dry leaves. Fire tenders from FS Ferrargunj were immediately turned out to the spot for firefighting operations.



On 18.02.2025, a fire broke out at a house near Bengali Club, Biggy Line. Fire Service tenders from FS Aberdeen and FS Marine promptly turned out to the spot.



On 20.02.2025, a fire broke out in a vegetable shop at Bathubasti. Water tenders from FS Garacharma promptly turned out to the spot. Firefighting operations were initiated immediately to control the fire.



On 24.02.2025, a fire broke out in the grassland area at Lapathi, Car Nicobar. A water tender was immediately turned out to the spot for firefighting operations. The fire was brought under control through swift action by the fire service team.

Fire Incident Report – 23.02.2025 A blaze erupted in dry vegetation close to Kamaraj School, Brokshabad. Emergency services were alerted and responded promptly. A fire engine was deployed to manage the situation on-site.



On 23.02.2025 A grass fire occurred near Mata Amrita Hospital, Shadipur. Mist appliance from Fire Station Aberdeen was mobilized. Swift action was taken to contain the outbreak nearby.



On 27.02.2025 A residential fire erupted at Mazar Pahar, Wireless Junction. Units from Fire Stations Aberdeen and Marine responded. An air conditioner compressor explosion was the suspected cause. The flames were fully brought under control by responders.



On 04.03.2025 A grass fire was reported at Khudiram Pur, Ward No-04. Due to limited road access, FS Diglipur staff used a PS vehicle. A portable pump was transported for firefighting operations.

Response was adapted to terrain conditions for effective action.

On 05.03.2025 A residential blaze occurred near the water complex at Marina Park. Fire units from Aberdeen and Marine stations were dispatched. Timely arrival ensured swift containment of the emergency. Damage was minimised through coordinated firefighting efforts.



Earthquake Activities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, located in a highly active seismic zone, experienced several mild to moderate earthquakes between January and August 2025. According to the Directorate of Disaster Management (DDM), A&N Administration, a total of 32 earthquakes of magnitude 4.5 and above were recorded, primarily in the Nicobar Islands Region and the Andaman Sea.

Summary of Seismic Activity (Jan–Aug 2025):

- Total Earthquakes Recorded: 32
- Magnitude Range: 4.5 – 6.6
- Most Active Zones: Nicobar Islands Region, Andaman Sea, Bay of Bengal
- Strongest Earthquake: Magnitude 6.6 Mw, Nicobar Islands Region, 29 July 2025 at 00:11 hrs (IST)

Most of the tremors occurred in the oceanic areas, causing no loss of life or property. The seismic events ranged between 4.5 and 6.6 magnitude, indicating continuous tectonic movements along the Indo–Burmese subduction zone.

A few significant earthquakes during this period include:

- 20 February 2025 (M 5.2) in the Andaman Sea, indicating active fault movements.
- 12 March 2025 (M 5.6) in the Bay of Bengal — the strongest in early 2025.
- 25 June 2025 (M 5.0), followed by multiple aftershocks in the Nicobar region.
- 13 July 2025 (M 5.1), reaffirming recurring activity near the Nicobar Basin.
- The most significant seismic event occurred on 29 July 2025 at 00:11 hrs, registering a magnitude of 6.6 Mw in the Nicobar Islands Region. The tremor, lasting about seven seconds, was felt at Campbell Bay and surrounding areas. It was attributed to the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Burmese Plate. Fortunately, there were no reports of casualties or structural damage, and no tsunami alert was issued.

The Directorate of Disaster Management, in coordination with IMD and INCOIS, continues close monitoring and emphasizes community preparedness and seismic resilience across the islands.

The Directorate of Disaster Management, A&N Administration, in collaboration with Civil Defence, South Andaman, successfully organized a five-day Basic Civil Defence Training Programme for the 1st Batch of Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) from 8th to 12th July 2025 at the Training Hall of Aapda Prabandhan Bhawan, Goalghar, Sri Vijaya Puram. A second batch of volunteers was trained from 14th to 18th July 2025, making the programme inclusive and impactful for a wider group of community responders.

The training aimed at equipping volunteers with essential disaster response knowledge and practical skills, preparing them to act as first responders at the community level during any emergency.

The training was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner/Director (Civil Defence), South Andaman, who urged participants to actively engage in all sessions. He stressed that only a well-trained and mentally prepared individual can respond effectively and save lives during disasters.



Smti Priyanka Kumari, DANICS, Director (Disaster Management), A&N Administration, appreciated the efforts of Civil Defence and resource departments in facilitating the training. She emphasized the Administration's commitment to capacity building and community resilience.

Training Coverage

The five-day programme included technical sessions conducted by officials from Disaster Management, Health, Fire Services, and NDRF personnel. Volunteers were trained in:

- Disaster Response & Search and Rescue techniques
- Basic First Aid and Trauma Care
- Fire Safety and Evacuation drills
- Incident Coordination and Communication protocols
- Community preparedness for earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis

Outcome and Usefulness of Training

The training proved highly beneficial for the volunteers by:

- Building confidence to act as first responders during emergencies.



- Enhancing their knowledge of multi-hazard response and coordination.
- Creating awareness of the importance of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination.
- Empowering them to support official agencies in search, rescue, evacuation, and relief operations.
- Promoting community-based disaster preparedness, ensuring quicker response at the grassroots level.

At the conclusion of the programme, Certificates were awarded to all trained Civil Defence Volunteers, recognizing their participation and preparedness to serve the community.

This training has not only strengthened the pool of trained volunteers in South Andaman but also marked a significant step towards building a resilient and disaster-ready island community.

Mock Exercise on Earthquake & Tsunami in A&N Islands Conducted by NDMA 14

29 July 2025

The Directorate of Disaster Management, in coordination with district authorities, successfully conducted a mock exercise simulating a moderate-intensity earthquake in the Islands on 29 July 2025.

The exercise was designed to test the effectiveness of early warning systems, emergency communication channels, and inter-agency coordination while assessing the response capability of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) and line departments including Police, Health, Fire, and Revenue.

The scenario simulated a 6.6 magnitude earthquake at a focal depth of 42 km, with ground shaking felt at Campbell Bay for about 7 seconds. Since such events may trigger a tsunami, INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) immediately activated monitoring systems and issued the first bulletin within minutes.

Key response actions included:

- Quick activation of State and District Control Rooms.
- Timely dissemination of alerts to concerned departments.
- EOCs across Nicobar put on high alert.
- Field verification by Police and Revenue officials confirmed normal conditions by 01:51 hrs.

The drill revealed strong coordination between agencies but also highlighted communication gaps with some remote Police Stations, delayed situation reports from distant islands, and limited use of alternative communication systems such as VHF, satellite phones, and HAM radio.

Key takeaways stressed the need for:

- Strengthening redundant communication systems in remote areas.
- Conducting regular joint drills with multiple departments.
- Enhancing community awareness and preparedness for earthquake and tsunami response.

The exercise reaffirmed the commitment of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration towards building a resilient disaster management framework for the seismically active island region.

Conference on “Strengthening Emergency Communication System in A & N Islands”

The Directorate of Disaster Management organized a one-day conference on Strengthening Emergency Communication System in Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 15th September 2025 at the Conference Hall, DDM, Sri Vijaya Puram. The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, graced the event as Chief Guest and highlighted the importance of robust communication networks for disaster preparedness, recalling the challenges faced during the 2004 tsunami and urging policies that ensure last-mile connectivity, especially for vulnerable islands like Chowra and Teressa.

The inaugural session included the welcome address and conference brief by the Secretary (Disaster Management), context setting by the Director (Disaster Management), and the keynote address by the Chief Secretary.



The technical session witnessed detailed presentations from the Directorate of Disaster Management, A&N Command, A&N Police, Forest Department, Port Management Board, Directorate of Shipping Services, Electricity Department, and the Deputy Commissioners of Nicobar, North & Middle Andaman, and South Andaman. Each department showcased their communication systems, highlighted gaps, and proposed measures such as modernization of VHF/HF networks, VOIP-based systems, wider use of satellite phones, and improved coordination mechanisms.

During the Open House Discussion, participants stressed the need for a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on communication, monthly district- and island-level mock drills, maintenance of adequate fuel reserves for power backup, use of Wireless





Integrated Public Address (WIPA) systems, docking units for satellite phones, listing of HAM radio operators, and establishment of EOCs in all inhabited islands. Suggestions also included promoting the Sachet app, enabling the Android Earthquake Alert System, and ensuring sirens are CAP-compliant. Representatives from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of robust and redundant communication systems, regular mock trials, and stronger civil-defence coordination.

The conference concluded with the summing-up by the Secretary (Disaster Management) and concluding remarks by the Chief Secretary, followed by a vote of thanks from the Director (Disaster Management). All participants then visited the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) to witness its facilities, communication networks, and monitoring systems.

The conference paved the way for actionable strategies and inter-departmental coordination to ensure faster, reliable, and resilient communication during disasters in the Islands.

Mud Volcano Eruption Reported at Jarawa Creek, Baratang

On 2nd October 2025, a mud volcanic eruption was reported at Jarawa Creek, Baratang, around 1330 hours. Local residents of Nayaghar Village noticed loud rumbling sounds from the Mud Volcano site and promptly informed the authorities. The information was relayed through the Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) at Baratang and Rangat, and further to the District Control Room and State Control Room.

A joint inspection team comprising officials from the Revenue, Police, and Forest Departments was immediately mobilized to the site. On inspection, a newly formed mud mound approximately 4–5 metres high and mud spread covering over 1000 sq. metres were observed, confirming active mud volcanic activity. The site lies around 500 metres from the nearest habitation, and hence no evacuation was deemed necessary.

As precautionary measures, tourist movement towards the Mud Volcano site has been suspended until further notice. The Forest Department has cordoned off all approach routes, while the Police Department has deployed personnel for round-the-clock monitoring and public safety. Local residents, boat operators, and tourist vehicle owners have been advised not to approach the area.

The situation remains under control, with no threat to life or property. Continuous monitoring is being carried out jointly by the Forest, Police, and Revenue Departments. The coordinated response ensured timely precautionary action and effective management of the incident.



South-West Monsoon Preparedness – 2025

under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration. The meeting was attended by senior officials and representatives from various line departments and agencies. At the outset, the Chief Secretary welcomed all participants and emphasized the importance of coordination among line departments and stakeholders for an effective and timely response during emergencies. A presentation on Monsoon Preparedness was made by the Directorate of Disaster Management, highlighting the arrangements and readiness measures undertaken in view of the upcoming monsoon season. Following detailed deliberations, several key actions were implemented as per the directions of the Chair to strengthen monsoon preparedness and response across the Islands:

- The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) had begun round-the-clock (24x7) monitoring of weather conditions in coordination with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and other concerned agencies to ensure timely dissemination of alerts and updates.
- All communication equipment, including satellite phones, had been checked and made fully functional to ensure uninterrupted connectivity during emergencies.
- A roster of Group 'B' Gazetted Officers had been prepared and they had commenced duty in three shifts at the SEOC to continuously monitor the monsoon situation and coordinate response activities.
- All District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) had convened review meetings with respective line departments to assess district-level preparedness and ensure that all departments were performing their designated roles effectively. The minutes of these meetings had been shared with the Directorate of Disaster Management.
- The Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) at the district level had been made functional on a 24x7 basis, with updated emergency contact details and reliable communication systems in place.
- The Directorate of Disaster Management had established regular information sharing through dedicated WhatsApp groups, ensuring that weather alerts and warnings issued by IMD were promptly circulated among Heads of Departments, Nodal Officers, and key stakeholders.
- The DDMAs had also started submitting daily situation reports on rainfall, floods, and thunderstorms to the SEOC by 1000 hrs in the prescribed format.

OIL SPILL

In a proactive step towards strengthening environmental protection and emergency response mechanisms, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has notified the formation of Oil Spill Crisis Management Groups (OSCMGs) at the Union Territory, District, and Sub-Divisional levels. As per notifications these groups will be responsible for the management and response to oil spill incidents across the A&N Islands. The OSCMGs will function in line with the guidelines laid out in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) – 2015. While the UT-level OSCMG will coordinate overall preparedness and response across the territory, the District and Sub-Divisional level groups will ensure swift, localized action in the event of any spill. This decentralized approach is expected to enhance responsiveness and minimize environmental damage. Officials have affirmed that all response measures will be implemented through these designated crisis management groups, ensuring coordinated and effective handling of oil spill situations in the region.

Proposal for Setting Up State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in A&N Islands

Recognising the unique disaster vulnerabilities of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Administration has proposed the establishment of a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to ensure rapid and effective emergency response across the islands.

Objectives of SDRF

The SDRF is envisioned as the first responder for disasters within the State, capable of handling Level-I and Level-II emergencies before the arrival of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Its primary objectives are:

- To provide immediate disaster response during the crucial “golden hours.”
- To develop local first responders familiar with the terrain, language, and cultural sensitivities of the islands.
- To conduct community capacity building and awareness programmes, especially for schools, volunteers, and village communities.

Roles & Responsibilities

The SDRF will be entrusted with:

- Rapid response to disasters and threatening situations.
- Conduct of mock drills, rehearsals, and awareness campaigns.
- Distribution of relief material and community-based disaster preparedness.

- Crowd management and coordination with other agencies.
- Continuous upgradation of skills through regular training and refresher courses.

Manpower & Structure

A total of 270 posts have been proposed for SDRF, including:

- 1 Superintendent of Police (Head of Force)
- 2 Deputy SPs (Company Commanders)
- 6 Inspectors (Team Commanders)
- 12 Sub-Inspectors, 30 Head Constables, 180 Police Constables, along with supporting staff such as compounders, drivers, VHF operators, cooks, and technical personnel.

Each of the six SDRF teams will consist of 40 members strategically deployed across key islands including Port Blair, Diglipur, Mayabunder, Hutbay, Car Nicobar, and Campbell Bay.

Training & Preparedness

SDRF personnel will undergo specialized training on the lines of NDRF, covering Disaster Management, Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue (CSSR), Medical First Response (MFR), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) response, Flood and Water Rescue, and Borewell Rescue operations.

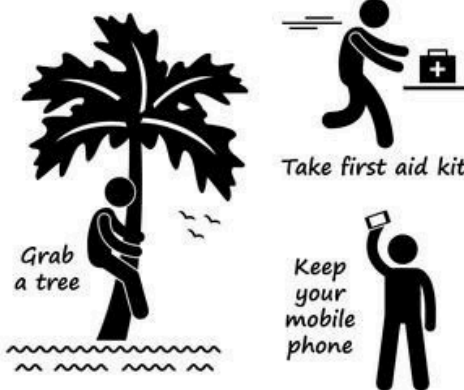
Infrastructure & Financial Outlay

The proposal includes construction of dedicated SDRF headquarters at Port Blair and team stations at five other key locations, with training facilities, barracks, offices, and equipment storage. The total financial implication is estimated at ₹88.08 crore, covering both recurring (salaries) and non-recurring (infrastructure, vehicles, and disaster equipment) expenses.

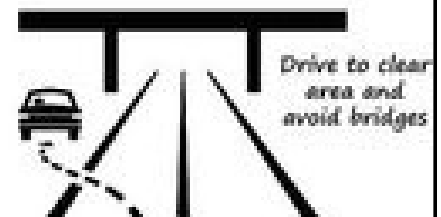
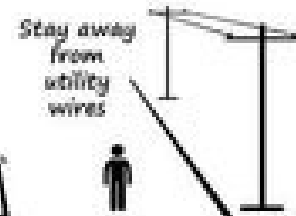
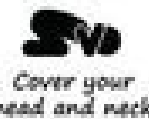
This structured force, once established, will significantly strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, ensuring timely and localized response during natural and man-made disasters.

DOs and DONTs

In Case of Tsunami



In Case of Earthquake



Lightning Safety Tips (Outdoor)



In Case of Fire



DOs and DONTs

22

THUNDERSTORM SAFETY TIPS

INDOORS

Stay off of landline telephones with a cord



Never take a shower or bath during a storm



Don't touch any electrical equipment & unplug electronics before storm



Avoid windows and doors



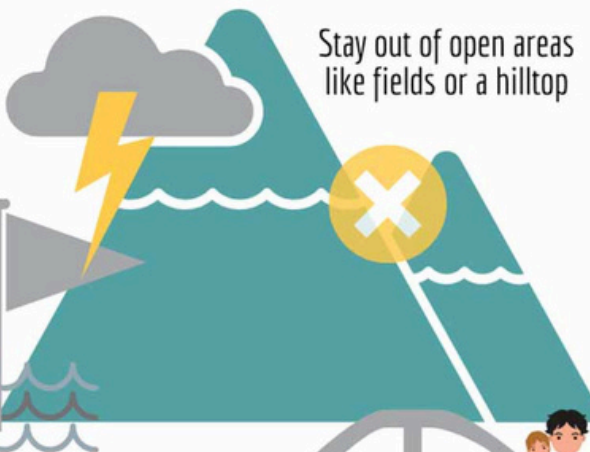
Stay away from plumbing

OUTDOORS

Avoid tall, isolated trees



Stay out of open areas like fields or a hilltop



Stay away from water, wet items and metal objects



Spread out if you are in a group to minimize injury

Only get in a car if it is a hardtop and you can roll up the windows



COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS
OUTBREAK

THE DO'S AND DON'TS
OF CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION

DO'S



Keep distance from others



Wash your hands often



Cook or order your food

DONT'S



Don't shake hands!



Avoid touching your mouth and nose!



Avoid bars, restaurants or crowded places

STOP, DROP AND ROLL IF YOUR CLOTHES ARE ON FIRE



DOs and DON'Ts

23

CYCLONE



Do's & Don'ts



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (i) 112 | - Emergency Response Support System |
| (ii) 1070/234287 | - State Control Room |
| (iii) 242697/233311 | - Directorate of Disaster Management |
| (iv) 238881/1077 | - District Control Room |

THUNDERSTORM DO'S & DON'TS

How to stay safe during a severe storm

DO

SEEK SHELTER

The safest place to be is in an interior room of a home, away from windows and doors.

UNPLUG APPLIANCES

Prevent a power surge from destroying your valuable electronics and appliances.

LISTEN TO THE NOAA RADIO

The NOAA Radio and local news will give you real-time updates regarding weather watches and warnings.

BE PREPARED FOR OTHER DISASTERS

Severe storms present the possibility of power outages, fire, flooding, landslides, and tornadoes. Be prepared for evacuation if any of these disasters threaten.

DO NOT

STAY OUTDOORS

Being outdoors makes you a vulnerable target for lightning. When thunder roars, go indoors!

TOUCH METAL OR ELECTRONICS

Do not touch anything that conducts electricity, such as a landline phone or plumbing fixture.

TAKE A BATH OR TOUCH WATER

Water conducts electricity as well. Do not do laundry, wash dishes, take a shower, or do anything that involves water.

GET TO THE HIGHEST PLACE POSSIBLE

Lightning tends to strike the highest object in a given area, such as tall trees and buildings. Stay away from these during a thunderstorm. Find a low-lying area to shelter in instead,

FIRE



Do's & Don'ts



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

- | | |
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