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GOVERNOR

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Prepare for Severe Weather Hazards During Monsoon Awareness Week, June 9-14

PHOENIX - Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed June 9-14 Monsoon Awareness Week to highlight the importance of being prepared for Arizona's severe weather and flooding.

The monsoon, which is active mid-June through late September, can present afternoon thunderstorms that produce lightning, high winds and heavy rains. A monsoon thunderstorm can cause hazardous localized flash flooding, and dust storms that reduce visibility.

"Monsoon activity may still be a few weeks away, but now is the time to get ready," said Governor Ducey. "During Monsoon Awareness Week, Arizona is taking action to make sure the public is aware of how to prepare and stay safe during these storms."

"Monsoon season can become dangerous with little or no warning," said Wendy Smith-Reeve, Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). "It's important for Arizonans to take caution and understand the risks this season presents when traveling throughout the state."

Because monsoon season spans the hottest months of the Arizona summer, it is important to recognize the dangers of extreme heat and the symptoms of heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and reduce exposure to the sun and heat during peak hours. Learn more about preparing for extreme heat on AzEIN: EIN.az.gov/hazards/extreme-heat

DEMA is partnering with the National Weather Service; the Governor's Office; the Arizona Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Homeland Security, Insurance, Public Safety, Transportation and Water Resources; and the Salvation Army to promote severe weather preparedness. Arizonans are encouraged to:

- **Plan:** Write and rehearse a family [communication plan](#) that identifies a meeting place and includes out-of-town contacts.
- **Prepare:** Build an [emergency supplies kit](#) with enough nonperishable food and water to last your family, including pets, for at least 72 hours. Include family prescriptions, copies of important documents and a weather radio.
- **Inquire:** Know the hazards in your community and where you travel. Get current weather forecasts on TV, on the radio or online. Go to EIN.az.gov and enter your address in the hazard viewer to learn about hazards in your area.
- **Inspire:** Be a [preparedness example](#) for others in your community. Check at home for potential hazards like overhanging trees and loose debris, donate blood, or do a fire drill at home.

To learn more about monsoon hazards and safety tips, visit EIN.az.gov/monsoon-awareness. For information on social media, follow #AzWX and #Monsoon2019.

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