Arizona’s Monsoon

In Arizona, the monsoon begins in June and continues through September.

During the monsoon, the risk of inclement and hazardous weather conditions increases. Hazardous weather conditions during the monsoon may include:

- Extreme heat.
- Dust storms.
- Hail and high winds.
- Heavy rain and flash flooding.
- Thunderstorms and intense lightening.
Thunderstorms

During the monsoon, thunderstorms tend to happen suddenly. In the event of a sudden thunderstorm:

1. Go indoors
   If able, seek safe shelter immediately. Do not take shelter underneath trees, in small sheds or other places that can blow over easily in high winds.

2. Stay low
   If shelter is available, get as low to the ground as possible. Avoid places like the tops of hills or mountains.

3. Avoid bodies of water
   Water conducts electricity. If out at the beach, lake or pool immediately exit the water and move as far away from it as possible.

4. Stay alert
   Listen to local news or follow the National Weather Service for weather and emergency updates.
Heavy rain and flooding

In the event of a heavy rain while driving, take the following precautions:

1. Turn on your headlights and windshield wipers.
2. Reduce your speed and maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and vehicles around you. **Do not** brake suddenly.
3. If you are sliding or drifting, gently turn your steering wheel in the direction of your slide.
4. **Do not** disregard **Road Closed** signs.
5. **Never** attempt to drive across a flooded area, even if it doesn’t look deep.
6. If necessary, safely pull over and wait for the rain to stop.

Do not underestimate the dangers of a flooded area. Two feet of rushing water can disable most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.
Dust storm safety

Dust storms are brief, but powerful windstorms that spread dense blowing dust across Arizona’s landscape. Dust storms are common during the monsoon and are oftentimes unexpected and unpredictable.

In the event of a dust storm:

1. Go indoors
   • Remain where you are until the storm has passed.
   • Seek cover in a building or closed vehicle.

2. Do not drive into or through a dust storm
   • Look for a safe place to pull completely off of the roadway. Do not stop in a travel or emergency lane.
   • Remain in your vehicle with your seatbelt fastened.
   • Set the emergency brake and take your foot off of the brake.
   • Turn off all vehicle lights. **Do not** turn on emergency flashers.
   • Wait for the storm to pass.
Learn more about staying safe during monsoon season

Arizona Department of Public Safety | Pull Aside Stay Alive

Arizona Department of Transportation | Monsoon safety

AZ Central | How to stay safe during Arizona's monsoon

The National Weather Service | Monsoon safety

If you have any questions, email EHS or call 480-965-1823.