

WINDSTORM

GUIDE
IN CASE OF WINDSTORM

RCB

Rządowe Centrum
Bezpieczeństwa



Warsaw, 2024 r.

Composition and implementation
GOVERNMENT CENTRE FOR SECURITY



Edition I
Warsaw, 2024 r.

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1.INTRODUCTION



Strong winds can cause serious damage to infrastructure and pose a threat to people's lives and health. Being prepared for such weather phenomena helps minimize the risk of damage and enhances our safety.

Knowing how to act before, during, and after a windstorm can significantly improve the effectiveness of protective measures.

What is a windstorm?

A windstorm is a strong, gusty wind with a speed exceeding 75 km/h. It is a weather phenomenon that can occur year-round, although it is most common during the autumn and winter months. Gales can occur independently or accompany other weather events, such as storms.

The effects of windstorms

The effects of a windstorms can vary and depend on its strength and the preparedness of the affected area.

The most common ones include:

- Damage to buildings, including roof tearing and window breakage.
- Destruction of infrastructure, such as power lines, telecommunications, or roads.
- Falling trees and branches, which can cause injuries and property damage.
- Power and water outages, leading to difficulties in daily activities.



2. PREPARING YOUR HOME

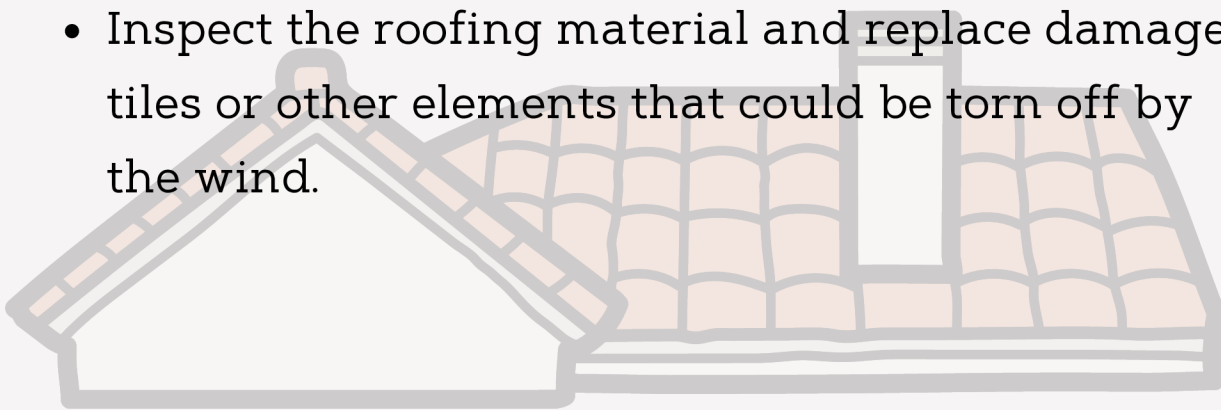
Strong winds can cause significant damage to buildings and pose a serious threat to life and health. To reduce the risk of destruction and improve safety, it is essential to properly prepare your home and its surroundings. Here are some tips:

Assessment of building condition

- Consult a structural engineer or specialist to evaluate the technical condition of your home.
- Check if the building's structure is sturdy and ensure there are no visible damages that could weaken its resistance to strong winds.

Roof reinforcement

- Make sure the roof is securely attached to the building's structure.
- Install additional fasteners or brackets to help keep the roof in place during high winds.
- Inspect the roofing material and replace damaged tiles or other elements that could be torn off by the wind.



Reinforcing exterior walls

- Inspect exterior walls for cracks and other damage.
- Seal cracks and strengthen weak points to enhance the walls' resistance to wind impacts.

Storing outdoor items

1. Securing garden furniture
 - Move garden furniture, pots, grills, and other loose items into a garage or another safe place.
 - If storing them indoors is not possible, firmly anchor them to the ground to prevent them from being carried away by the wind.
2. Removing hazardous items
 - Relocate garden tools, construction equipment, and other potentially dangerous items to enclosed spaces.
 - Ensure there are no loose tree branches near the house that could be blown off by the wind and damage the building.



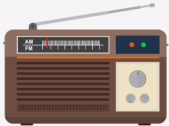
3. STOCKING ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Everyday necessities

Stock up on:



- flashlights and spare batteries;



- battery-powered radio;



- candles and matches;



- power bank for phone charging.

Important documents and valuables

- Store documents (ID cards, passports, insurance policies) in waterproof and easily accessible containers.
- Secure valuable items in a safe place, away from potential damage.

Water and food supplies

Stock up on:



- bottle water;



- long-shelf-life food.

First aid kit

Stock up on:



- medications and pain relievers;



- bandaging materials (bandages, plasters);



- disinfectants (hydrogen peroxide, antibacterial gel);

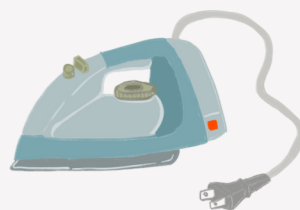


- medical accessories (thermometer, scissors, disposable gloves).

4. DURING A WINDSTORM

Staying safe at home

- **Stay calm.**
- **Close windows and doors** – make sure all windows and doors are securely closed.
- **Avoid using electrical devices** – during a gale, refrain from using electrical appliances, as they may be dangerous, especially in the event of a power outage or damage to the electrical system.
- **Take care of animals** – ensure that pets are safe and secure.



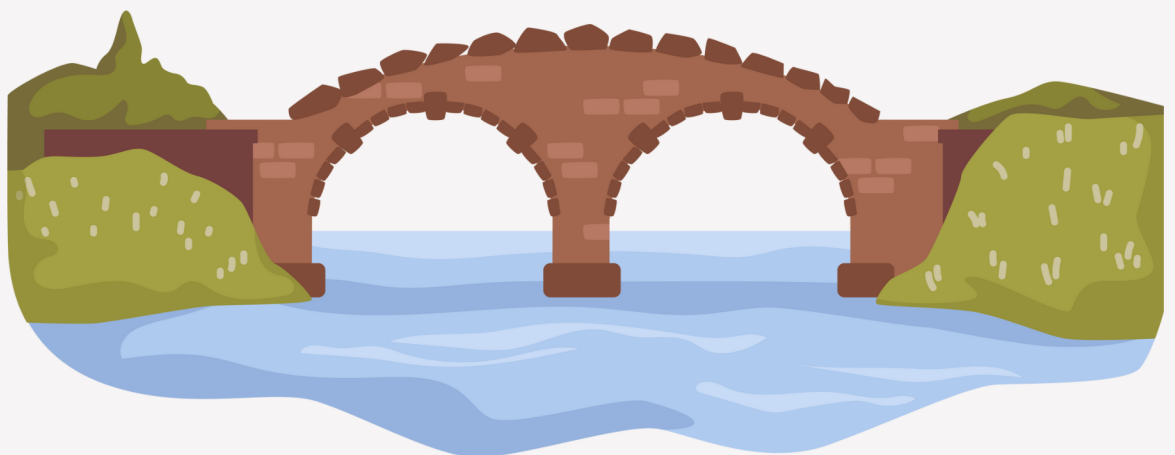
What to do if you are outdoors?

Find safe shelter

- Seek shelter – If possible, take refuge in a sturdy building. Avoid staying in tents, small structures, or other constructions that may not withstand strong winds.
- Avoid sheltering under trees – Stay away from large trees, poles, and other objects that could fall or break due to the wind.

Protect yourself from hazards

- Find wind protection – If you cannot find a building, try to hide behind a solid object (e.g., a bridge).
- Protection from debris – If you are in an area exposed to debris, take cover in the most sheltered spot available and use your sleeves, a bag, or clothing as protection.

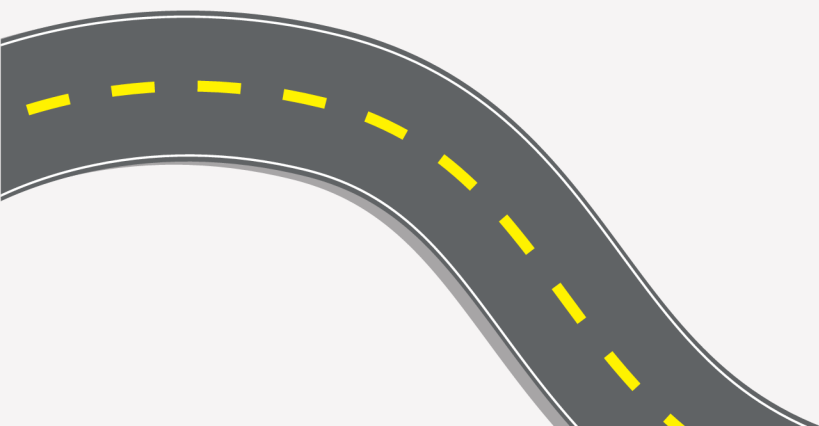


Maintain contact and communication

- Use your mobile phone – Stay in touch with family, friends, and emergency services. If possible, use a radio to get the latest updates on the situation.
- Inform others about your status – If you are in a group, ensure that everyone is in a safe place and aware of the situation.
- Make only essential calls – Conserve your mobile phone battery by limiting calls to those that are absolutely necessary.

Avoid dangerous areas

- Cross streets cautiously – If you need to move, avoid streets that may be flooded or littered with debris. Use routes that are less likely to be damaged.
- Do not touch damaged infrastructure – Avoid contact with downed power lines and other objects/structures that may pose an electrocution risk.





PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST **THE WINDSTORM**

NIE PARKUJ W POBLIŻU
DRZEW, REKLAM, SZYLDÓW
I SŁUPÓW TRAKCJI
ENERGETYCZNEJ

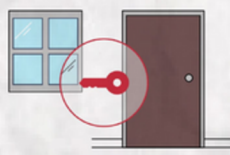


WYŁĄCZ GAZ I PRĄD,
ABY OGRANICZYĆ
NIEBEZPIECZEŃSTWO
POWSTANIA POŻARU

PRZED



USUŃ PRZEDMIOTY,
KTÓRE PORWANE PRZEZ WIATR
MOGĄ BYĆ ZAGROŻENIEM



ZAMKNIJ OKNA I DRZWI



NAŁADUJ TELEFON KOMÓRKOWY

PODCZAS



ZOSTAŃ W DOMU,
JEŚLI MOŻESZ

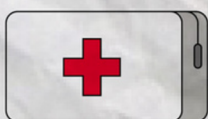


POSZUKAJ BEZPIECZNEGO
SCHRONIENIA



NIE ZATRZYMUJ SIĘ
POD DRZEWAMI

PO



POMÓŻ RANNYM
I POSZKODOWANYM



ZRÓB ZDJĘCIA ZNISZCZEŃ,
MOGĄ POMÓĆ W UZYSKANIU
ODSZKODOWANIA



POINFORMUJ SŁUŻBY
O NIEBEZPIECZNYCH
ZDARZENIACH

How to handle a power outage?

Stay calm and ensure everyone's safety

- Check safety – Make sure everyone in the home is safe and has no urgent medical needs. If medical assistance is needed, contact the appropriate emergency services.

Lighting

- Use a flashlight – If you have a flashlight, use it to light your surroundings. Keep spare batteries on hand to maintain light for a longer duration.
- Candles – If using candles, keep them away from flammable materials and never leave them unattended. Consider using LED candles, which are safer than traditional ones.

Food and water safety

- Keep the fridge and freezer closed – Open them as rarely as possible to maintain the cold temperature inside.
- Prepare a water supply – Ensure you have enough drinking water stored in case of need.

Safety and heating

- Check heat sources – Prepare additional sources of warmth, such as blankets or sleeping bags. Avoid using solid fuel or gas-powered heaters indoors unless they are specifically designed for enclosed spaces and are properly ventilated.
- Maintain warmth – Insulate windows and doors to reduce heat loss. If possible, cover windows with blankets or other materials to minimize heat loss.

Electrical devices

- Turn off devices – Unplug electrical appliances to prevent damage when power is restored.



5. AFTER A WINDSTORM

- Notify appropriate services (fire department, police, power company, gas company, and other relevant agencies) about incidents that pose a risk to public safety.
- Assist injured and affected individuals – provide them with first aid.
- Be cautious around downed or hanging electrical wires – do not touch or attempt to remove them under any circumstances.
- Take photos of the damage to your home (building and belongings), as they may serve as evidence in the insurance claim process.
- Call technical services, turning off the gas and electricity beforehand, if you notice sparking in the electrical system, burned wires, or smell burning insulation.



6. USEFUL CONTACTS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Emergency numbers

If you are a witness or participant in an incident that poses a threat to health or life, call the emergency number 112.



Government and local agencies

- Crisis Management Centre



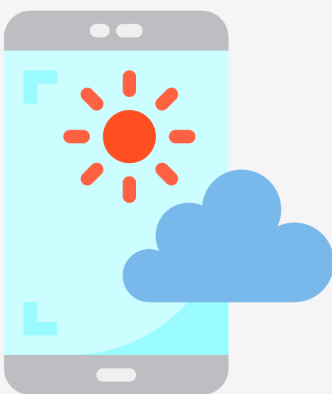
[Check the number of the Provincial Crisis Management Center for your region.](#)

- Municipal and communal social assistance centers.

Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW)



Regional weather portals and mobile applications with weather alerts





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