

WHAT IS MONSOON SEASON?



MONSOON SEASON IS A **SHIFT** IN WEATHER THAT BRINGS MOISTURE, STORMS, AND **RELIEF** FROM EXTREME HEAT TO ARIZONA.

HOW IT WORKS



1. HEAT BUILDS

Intense summer heat warms the desert and surrounding land.



2. MOISTURE FLOWS IN

Moisture from the Gulf of California and the Gulf of Mexico moves into the Southwest.



3. WARM AIR RISES

Moist air is pushed upward over the mountains and creates clouds.



4. STORMS DEVELOP

Thunderstorms form, bringing rain, lightning, strong winds, and cooler temperatures.



5. RELIEF AND RENEWAL

Rain helps cool the air, replenish water supplies, and green the landscape.



WHEN IS MONSOON SEASON?

**JUNE 15 –
SEPTEMBER 30**

These dates mark the time when monsoon moisture is most likely to impact Arizona.



WHAT TO EXPECT



Short, heavy downpours



Lightning and thunder



Strong, gusty winds



Lower temperatures and higher humidity

MONSOON SEASON BENEFITS



SUPPLIES WATER

Helps fill lakes, rivers, and groundwater.



SUPPORTS NATURE

Encourages plant growth and wildlife.



COOLS THINGS OFF

Brings relief from extreme summer heat.



SUSTAINS ARIZONA

Essential for our deserts, cities, and communities.



**MONSOON SEASON CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE.
STAY INFORMED. STAY PREPARED. STAY SAFE.**



Check local weather and emergency alerts.

DOWNBURSTS



POWERFUL WINDS. SUDDEN IMPACT.



WHAT IS A DOWNBURST?

A downburst is a strong downdraft of air from a thunderstorm that hits the ground and spreads out in all directions.

It can produce damaging winds similar to a tornado—but it happens in a straight line and can strike with little to no warning.

KEY FACTS



Downburst winds can exceed **70 mph**.



They can last only **5–10 minutes** but cause widespread damage.



Downbursts can happen anywhere—during heavy rain or even when the storm looks weaker.



They can occur in Arizona during Monsoon season (**June 15 – Sept 30**).

SAFETY TIPS



BEFORE

- Check the forecast.
- Know your location's severe weather plan.
- Identify safe shelters near you.
- Secure outdoor items that could be blown away.



DURING

- Move indoors immediately.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and porches.
- Go to a small, interior room on the lowest floor.
- Do not seek shelter under trees or in open shelters.



AFTER

- Wait at least 30 minutes after the storm before going outside.
- Watch for downed power lines and damaged structures.
- Report damaged power lines to authorities.



IF YOU SEE IT, FLEE IT. IF YOU HEAR IT, CLEAR IT.

Move to a safe shelter right away.



DOWNBURSTS CAN STRIKE FAST WITH LITTLE WARNING.

Take shelter immediately. Stay safe. Stay alert.



WHEN IN DOUBT, GET INSIDE!

Shelter in a sturdy building or hard-top vehicle.



DUST STORMS.

SUDDEN. DANGEROUS. UNPREDICTABLE.



WHAT IS A DUST STORM?

A dust storm (or haboob) is a wall of dust and sand pushed by strong winds—often from thunderstorms.

They can develop quickly and reduce visibility to near zero in minutes.

Dust storms can be life-threatening—especially for drivers.

KEY FACTS



Winds in dust storms can exceed **60 mph**.



Visibility can drop to **near zero** in seconds.



Dust storms can cause car crashes, breathing problems, and power outages.



Dust storms are most common in Arizona during Monsoon season (**June 15 – Sept 30**).

SAFETY TIPS – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER



BEFORE

- Check the forecast.
- Know your location's severe weather plan.
- Identify safe shelters near you.
- Keep your vehicle fueled and ready.
- If you have respiratory issues, keep medications with you.



The NWS will notify you by text message.



DURING

- Go indoors immediately.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and exterior walls.
- Avoid driving if possible.
- If driving and you encounter a dust storm:
 - Pull off the road safely.
 - Turn off your lights.
 - Take your foot off the brake.
 - Wait for visibility to improve.
- Protect your nose and mouth from dust.



AFTER

- Wait until visibility improves before going outside.
- Watch for downed power lines and damaged property.
- Drive with caution—dust may still be in the air.
- Report power outages and damage to authorities.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



DRIVING IN A DUST STORM CAN BE DEADLY.

If you can't see, don't drive. Pull over. Stay alive.



DUST CAN HARM YOUR HEALTH.

Limit time outside. Use a mask or cloth to cover your nose and mouth.



WHEN IN DOUBT, SHELTER INSIDE.

A sturdy building is your safest place.



FLASH FLOODING:

FAST. UNPREDICTABLE.



WHAT IS FLASH FLOODING?



Flash flooding occurs when heavy rain falls in a short amount of time, causing water to rise quickly—often **within minutes**.

It can happen anywhere:
streets, underpasses,
and low-lying areas.

KEY FACTS



In Arizona, flash flooding is most common during the Monsoon (**June 15 – Sept 30**).



Rainfall rates over **1.00" per hour** can cause flash flooding.



Just **2–3"** of rain in 1 hour can produce dangerous runoff.



Low-lying areas can flood in as little as **6–15 minutes**.

SAFETY TIPS – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER



BEFORE

- Check the forecast
- Know flood-prone areas
- Have an emergency plan



DURING

- Move to higher ground
- Avoid flooded roads
- Do **NOT** attempt to cross flowing water



AFTER

- Stay away from floodwaters
- Watch for debris & downed power lines
- Report flooded roads

REMEMBER:



Never drive through flooded roads. **Just 6 inches** of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet. Turn around, don't drown. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.



Avoid washes, arroyos, and low-lying areas—water can rise in seconds.



Stay weather aware. Heavy rain can fall **2–3"** in less than an hour in Arizona.



TURN AROUND.





EXTREME HEAT

DURING ARIZONA MONSOON SEASON



110°F+
IT CAN HAPPEN!



WHAT IS IT?

Arizona's monsoon season (mid-June through September) brings extreme heat combined with high humidity. Afternoon temperatures often reach 105°–115°F in the Valley, with heat index values frequently 5°–15°F higher. Overnight lows stay very warm, typically 80°–90°F, limiting relief and increasing the risk of heat-related illness.



SAFETY TIPS

- Drink water frequently—don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Avoid outdoor activity during peak heat (10 AM – 6 PM) when the sun is strongest.
- Never leave children or pets in vehicles. Inside temps can reach 130–150°F in minutes.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30+).



FUN FACTS

- Phoenix averages 53 days per year with a high of 110°F or greater.
- The all-time record high in Phoenix is 122°F (June 26, 1990).
- Pavement temperatures can reach 160°F+ in direct sun.



STAY HEAT AWARE!



⚡ LIGHTNING: ⚡



WHAT IS LIGHTNING?

Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere that can strike the ground.

During Arizona's Monsoon season (**June 15 – Sept 30**), thunderstorms can develop quickly, bringing dangerous lightning.



Lightning can strike up to **10 miles** away from the rain.



Most lightning strikes occur during the afternoon and evening.



Every year in Arizona, lightning causes deaths, injuries, and property damage.

SAFETY TIPS – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER



BEFORE

- Check the forecast (storms can form fast in the Monsoon).
- Know your location's lightning safety plan.
- Identify safe shelters near you.
- Avoid high places and open areas.



DURING

- Go indoors immediately when you hear thunder.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and porches.
- Avoid using corded phones and electrical equipment.
- Do not seek shelter under trees or in open shelters.



AFTER

- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going outside.
- Watch for fallen power lines and damaged property.
- Report downed power lines to authorities.



**IF YOU CAN SEE IT,
FLEE IT. IF YOU HEAR IT,
CLEAR IT.**

Move to a safe shelter right away.



**Monsoon storms can
build fast in Arizona.**

When thunder roars,
go indoors!



**WHEN IN DOUBT,
GET INSIDE!**

Shelter in a sturdy building
or hard-top vehicle.



TURN AROUND. **STAY SAFE.**



STAY SAFE

DURING

ARIZONA MONSOON SEASON



ENJOY ARIZONA'S OUTDOORS.
KNOW THE RISKS. **BE PREPARED.**



STRONG STORMS CAN BRING
FLASH FLOODS, LIGHTNING,
HIGH WINDS, AND DUST
WITH LITTLE WARNING.

PLAN AHEAD. STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE.

KNOW THE MONSOON HAZARDS



LIGHTNING

Can strike 10+ miles
away from storms.
When thunder roars,
go indoors.



FLASH FLOODS

Flooding can happen
quickly—never cross
flowing washes or
flooded roads.



DUST STORMS

Sudden dust storms
can reduce visibility
to near zero.
Pull over. Stay put.



STRONG WINDS

Damaging winds can
down trees, power lines,
and unsecured
structures.



HEAVY RAIN

Heavy rain can lead
to flooding, slippery
surfaces, and
dangerous conditions.

RECREATION SAFETY TIPS BEFORE, DURING & AFTER YOUR ADVENTURE



HIKING

- Check the forecast before you go.
- Hike early. Avoid afternoon storms.
- Carry plenty of water and sun protection.
- Turn around if storms build.



CAMPING

- Choose higher ground—avoid washes and low-lying areas.
- Secure tents and camp gear.
- Be ready to evacuate if heavy rain or storms approach.
- Watch for flooding while you sleep.



BOATING

- Check the forecast and water conditions.
- Return to shore at the first sign of storms.
- Life jackets save lives—wear them.
- Lightning and high winds can be deadly on water.



OFF-ROADING

- Avoid river crossings and flooded roads.
- Dust storms can reduce visibility to zero—pull over.
- Travel with others and let someone know your plans.
- Secure loose items—wind can pick them up.



FISHING

- Watch the sky and radar.
- Leave the water and seek shelter if storms approach.
- Lightning can strike near open water.
- Keep fishing gear away from power lines and trees.

IF A STORM THREATENS



Seek shelter in a
sturdy building
or hard-top
vehicle.



Avoid canyons,
washes, and
low-lying
areas.



Monitor weather
alerts and have
a plan to get
to safety.



In a dust storm,
pull over, turn **off**
your lights, and
wait it out.



**WHEN IN DOUBT,
DON'T GO OUT.**

Conditions can change quickly.
Your safety comes first.



STAY INFORMED. STAY PREPARED. STAY SAFE.



Check local weather
and emergency alerts.