

What to Do When a Big Storm is Approaching

Storms are bound to knock out Internet and even power. Lightning strikes and power surges can easily damage your valuable technology. Here are some tips from Paso Robles Tech to protect your valuable equipment and stay one step ahead of the storms.

Back up your data

To keep your data safe and protected in the event of data loss or disaster and get you back up in running in as little time as possible, our technicians recommend utilizing an online, cloud-based services such as Carbonite, Backblaze or iDrive. If your home or office gets hit by lightning strikes or floods, and your computer gets destroyed, you will be happy to have a secure back up of your data that you can easily restore. Backing up to an external device such as an external hard drive is also a valid option but beware these types of devices can also be affected by storm damage. Additionally, they are easy to steal or sustain physical damage by getting knocked off a desk or accidentally dropped.

Unplug devices

If you know strong weather is coming your way, power down and unplug your devices. Lightning strikes can travel through power lines such as cables. You should unplug your computer from its power source, as well as unplug all lines and cables in order to protect your computer equipment as much as possible. Make sure you properly shut down your computer before unplugging it, as turning off the power before the computer properly shuts down can also cause data loss.

Use a UPS device

A UPS (uninterruptible power supply), or battery backup, is a device that provides emergency power when the main power source fails. Most devices that are commonly used in homes or offices are only capable of providing emergency power for a few minutes; just enough time to start up a generator or properly shut down your equipment. These devices are more robust than a simple surge protector and are highly recommended to keep your equipment safe. Whether it's a power flicker (brown out or surge) or complete power loss, a UPS will buy you a few minutes of time to limit data loss and damage to the technology.

Keep equipment off floor

If you are in an area that is prone to flooding, or torrential rainstorm is headed your way, move your computers and other electronic devices off of the floor to protect them from damage from flooding. Water damage to electrical equipment can be severe, and simply moving your equipment from underneath your desk to on top of your desk can be the difference between having to buy a new computer or not.

Once the weather has passed, take care to check your equipment and cables for any signs of damage. If everything looks good, plug all your devices back in and power them on. If you have found that your equipment has issue or possibly has been damaged, contact [Paso Robles Tech](#) for assistance.