



## Mitigating extreme weather risks

**1** In this activity, the group will need to imagine they are working as a team for the local weather office in an area where an extreme weather event is likely to happen in the future. Tell them their task is to make a poster to help local people understand what they can do to prepare for the extreme weather event and reduce (mitigate) its impacts.

**2** Divide everyone into small groups and give each of them an extreme weather card, found on pages 3–4. Give each group poster-making materials and ask them to prepare their poster, making sure to include:

- A description of the extreme weather event
- What the warning signs are of the extreme weather event
- The possible impacts of the extreme weather event
- How and how far in advance will they know if the event is going to happen?
- What can people do before, during and after?
- Advice about how to prepare tailored to different audiences



30 minutes



Groupwork



Extreme weather profile cards



Poster making material (paper, pens)

- Any emergency service information

Encourage them to consider:

- What colours they should use
- The kind of language they should use
- Can they use symbols?
- People with disabilities, or who do not speak English as their first language
- Their audience: Do different people need to prepare differently? (Very old, very young etc.)

### Optional extension

If you have time, or as an extension activity, ask each group in turn to present their poster to everyone. Allow the rest of the group to ask questions if there is sufficient time



30 minutes



Groupwork

# Extreme weather profile cards

## Hurricane

Hurricanes are very large, rapidly rotating storms, with very strong winds and thunderstorms. Each year several make landfall and can cause considerable damage to property and loss of life. They are also known as typhoons or tropical cyclones.

### Find out more:

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/weather/tropical-cyclones/hurricane](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/weather/tropical-cyclones/hurricane)

[www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html](http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/hurricanepreparedness/>

## Tornado

Sometimes called a twister, a tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air that reaches between the base of a storm cloud and the Earth's surface.

### Find out more:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/tornadoes>

[www.emsaonline.com/mediacenter/articles/00000184.html](http://www.emsaonline.com/mediacenter/articles/00000184.html)

[www.stormaware.mo.gov/preparing-for-a-tornado/](http://www.stormaware.mo.gov/preparing-for-a-tornado/)

## Wildfires

Sometimes called brush fires, bushfires or forest fires, a wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in a natural area. It can be caused by a combination of very hot and dry weather, with fires being started either through lightning strikes or human activity.

### Find out more:

[www.kfwf.org.uk](http://www.kfwf.org.uk)

[www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/wildfires/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/wildfires/)

[www.readyforwildfire.org/What-To-Do-If-Trapped/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/What-To-Do-If-Trapped/)

# Extreme weather profile cards

## Blizzards

A blizzard refers to a cold, strong wind that is laden with snow which significantly reduces visibility (this means a blizzard makes it very hard to see things that are further away).

### Find out more:

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/snow/blizzard](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/snow/blizzard)

[www.which.co.uk/news/2019/01/how-to-stay-safe-in-snow-and-ice/](http://www.which.co.uk/news/2019/01/how-to-stay-safe-in-snow-and-ice/)

## Sandstorm

Sometimes called a dust storm, sandstorms happen when very strong winds blow up sand and/or dust from an area that is extremely dry. They are common in deserts.

### Find out more:

[www.sciencing.com/are-there-warning-signs-before-a-dust-storm-occurs-13419067.html](http://www.sciencing.com/are-there-warning-signs-before-a-dust-storm-occurs-13419067.html)

[www.arizonahighways.com/blog/do-you-know-what-do-during-dust-storm](http://www.arizonahighways.com/blog/do-you-know-what-do-during-dust-storm)

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/dust-storms.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/dust-storms.aspx)

## Heatwave

A heatwave is a long period of hot weather, which may be accompanied by high humidity.

### Find out more:

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/temperature/heatwave](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/temperature/heatwave)

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/prepare-for-heat.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/prepare-for-heat.aspx)