

# It's Severe Weather Season in Kentucky



# What is Severe Weather?

Four types of severe weather are possible in spring and summer in Kentucky:

- Excessive Heat
- Thunderstorms
- Flooding
- Tornadoes

Weather is considered severe when conditions might cause injury or death.

# Excessive Heat

Extreme heat is responsible for more weather-related deaths in the United States in an average year than any other weather hazard.



# Excessive Heat

1. Drink plenty of fluids.
2. Stay out of the sun and in an air-conditioned place.
3. Outside, take frequent breaks in the shade.
4. Wear lightweight, loose clothes.
5. Keep strenuous activities for the early morning or evening.

# **Excessive Car Heat**

Car interiors can reach deadly temperatures in a matter of minutes during hot or warm weather.

**Never leave young children and pets unattended in vehicles.**

# Thunderstorms

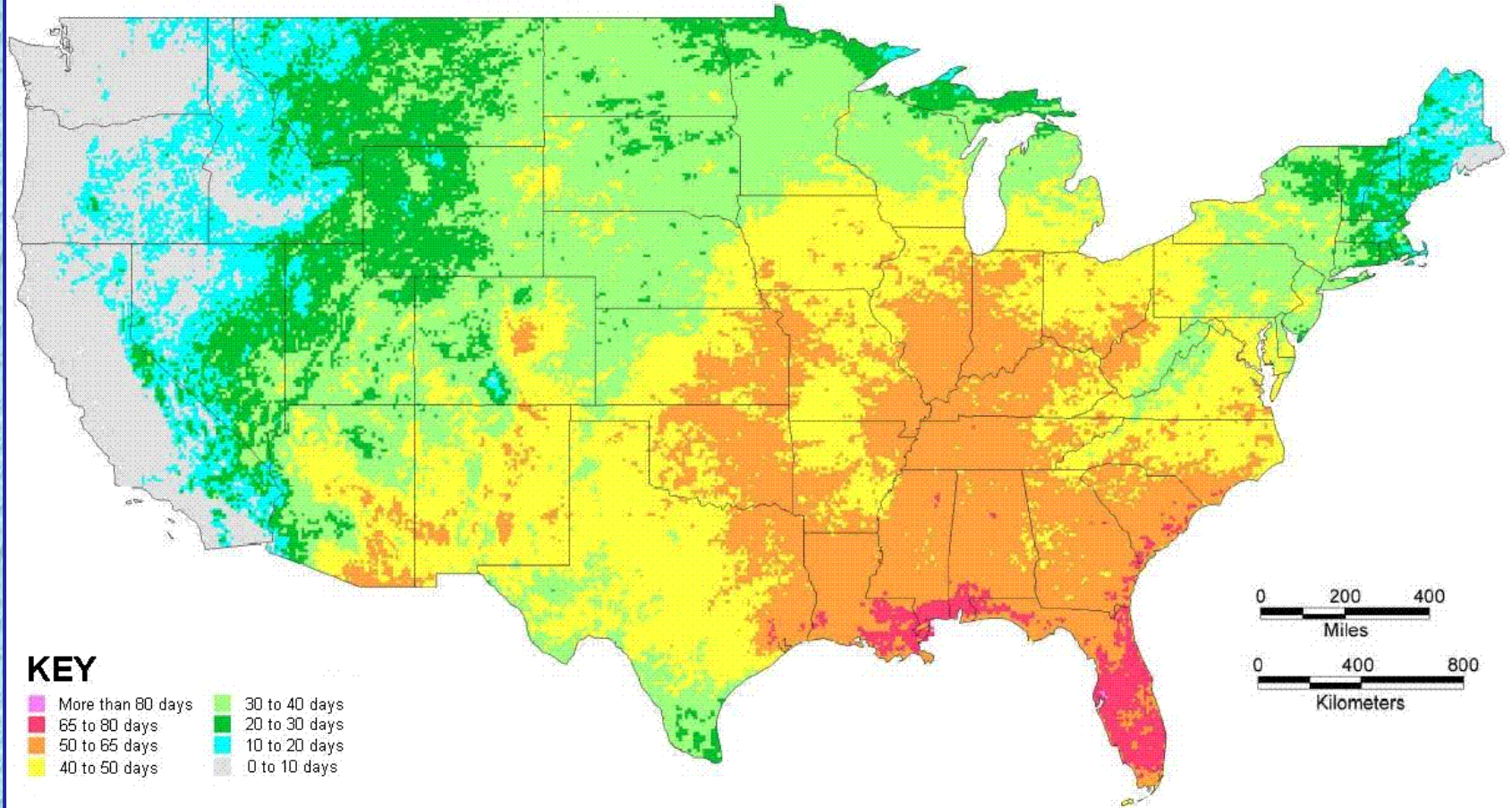
A thunderstorm is heavy rain with lightning and thunder.





# Thunderstorms

## Average Number of Thunderstorm Days per Year



# Thunderstorms

**Kentucky averages between  
40 and 65 days with  
thunderstorms each year.  
That's a lot!**



# Severe Thunderstorms

Some thunderstorms are more dangerous than others.

They are called **severe thunderstorms**.

# Severe Thunderstorms

Have at least one of these:

- 1) large hail-1 inch (2.5 cm)
  - 2) severe winds of 58 miles per hour (93 km/h) or greater
  - 3) tornadoes likely
- or any combination of the three

# Floods

A flood occurs when it rains for a long time (hours or days) and the water does not drain fast enough.





# Floods

There are several places in Lexington where water is often over the road because the road is low.



# Floods

Storm drains in Lexington can also be dangerous when there has been heavy rain.





# Flash Floods

When it rains very heavily in a short time, there might be a flash flood.





# Floods

If there is water over the road, you should never try to drive through it.



# Floods

- The water may be flowing fast enough to sweep your car away or ruin the engine.
- You can lose control of your car in just 5 to 6 inches of water on the road.
- The roadbed may be washed away.

**When water is  
across a road,**



**TURN  
AROUND,  
DON'T  
DROWN!**

**Don't cross flooded roads.**



# Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air which drops from a thunderstorm cloud to the ground.

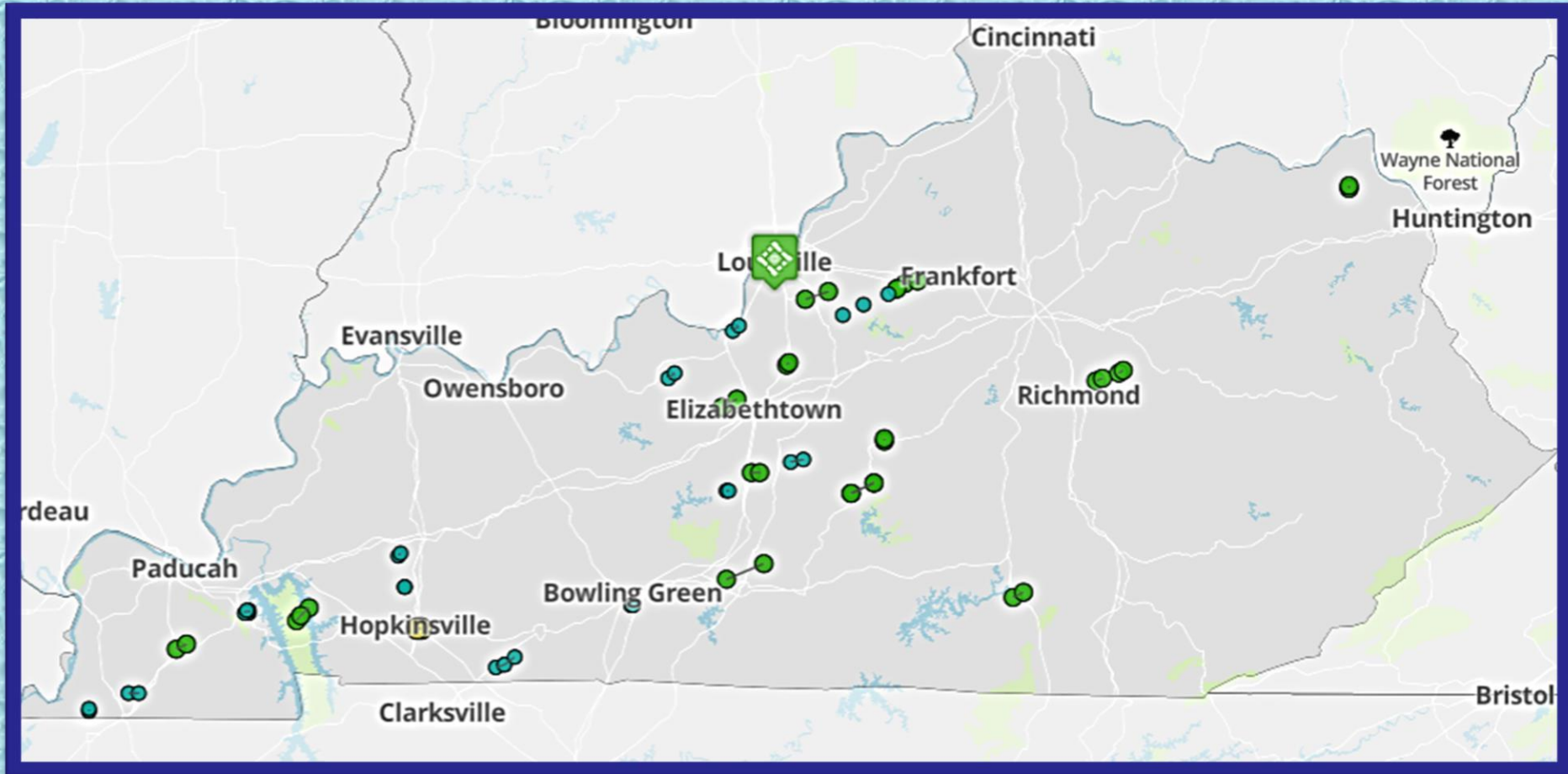


# Tornadoes

Here is a tornado developing.



# Tornadoes in Kentucky 2022





# Tornadoes in Kentucky 2021 and 2022

There were 97 confirmed tornadoes in Kentucky in the last two years.

In 2021, 74 people died and 617 people were injured.

# Lightning

Lightning is a very dangerous part of a thunderstorm.

Last summer a man in Kentucky was killed by lightning as he was standing in an open area.

# Lightning

Almost all people struck by lightning have injuries that affect them the rest of their lives.





# Lightning Safety Precautions

**Never** stay outside during a thunderstorm.

If you can hear thunder- even if you can't see lightning- you should look for shelter immediately.

The best shelter is inside a building or a house.

Inside a car with the windows up is the second best place to be.

# If No Building or Car is Nearby

If you feel your hair stand on end  
(an indication that lightning is about  
to strike)

- Do not lie flat on the ground
- Squat low to the ground and put your hands over your ears with your head between your knees
- Make yourself as small as possible and minimize contact with the ground



# Lightning Safety Precautions

If you are in your house or apartment

- Stay away from water- no showers, no baths and no washing dishes
- Stay away from windows
- Do not use telephones with cords- cordless phones and cell phones are okay
- Wait 30 minutes after you last hear thunder before going out



# Lightning Safety Precautions

You should protect your appliances with a surge protector.



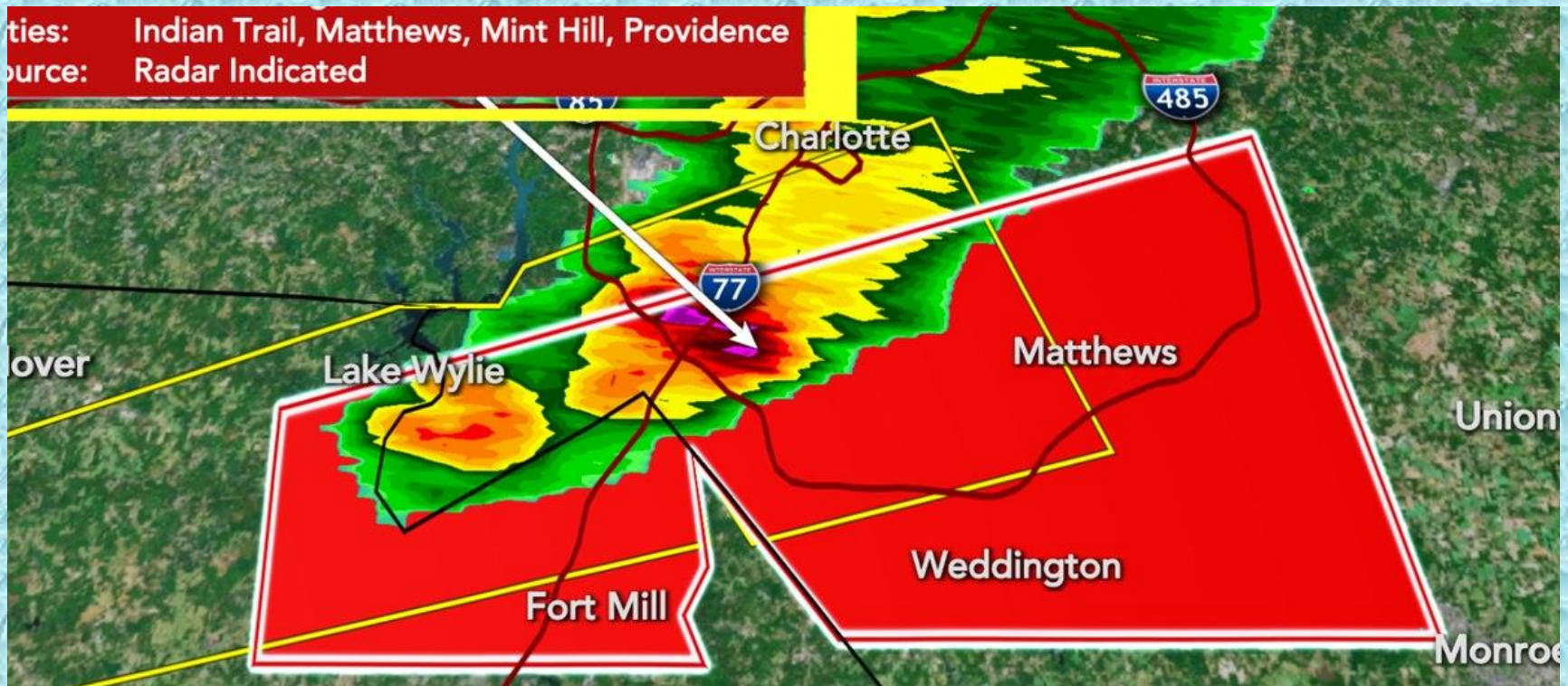
Plug in your

- computer
- TV
- DVD player
- cell phone

If the lightning is very close, you might want to unplug things completely.

# Preparing for Severe Weather

The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings for severe storms, flash floods and tornadoes.





# Preparing for Severe Weather

A **watch** means severe weather is possible during the next few hours.

A **warning** means that severe weather has already been observed (by sight or by radar) or is expected very soon.



# Preparing for Severe Weather

Most cities have sirens which blow when a tornado has been seen or is very likely.



# Preparing for Severe Weather

Do not try to outrun the tornado in your car.



Do not seek shelter in an overpass.



# Preparing for Severe Weather

If you are indoors you may not hear the tornado siren.

Severe weather often occurs at night, so you may want to purchase a weather alert radio or a smart phone app that will wake you up if dangerous weather is coming.

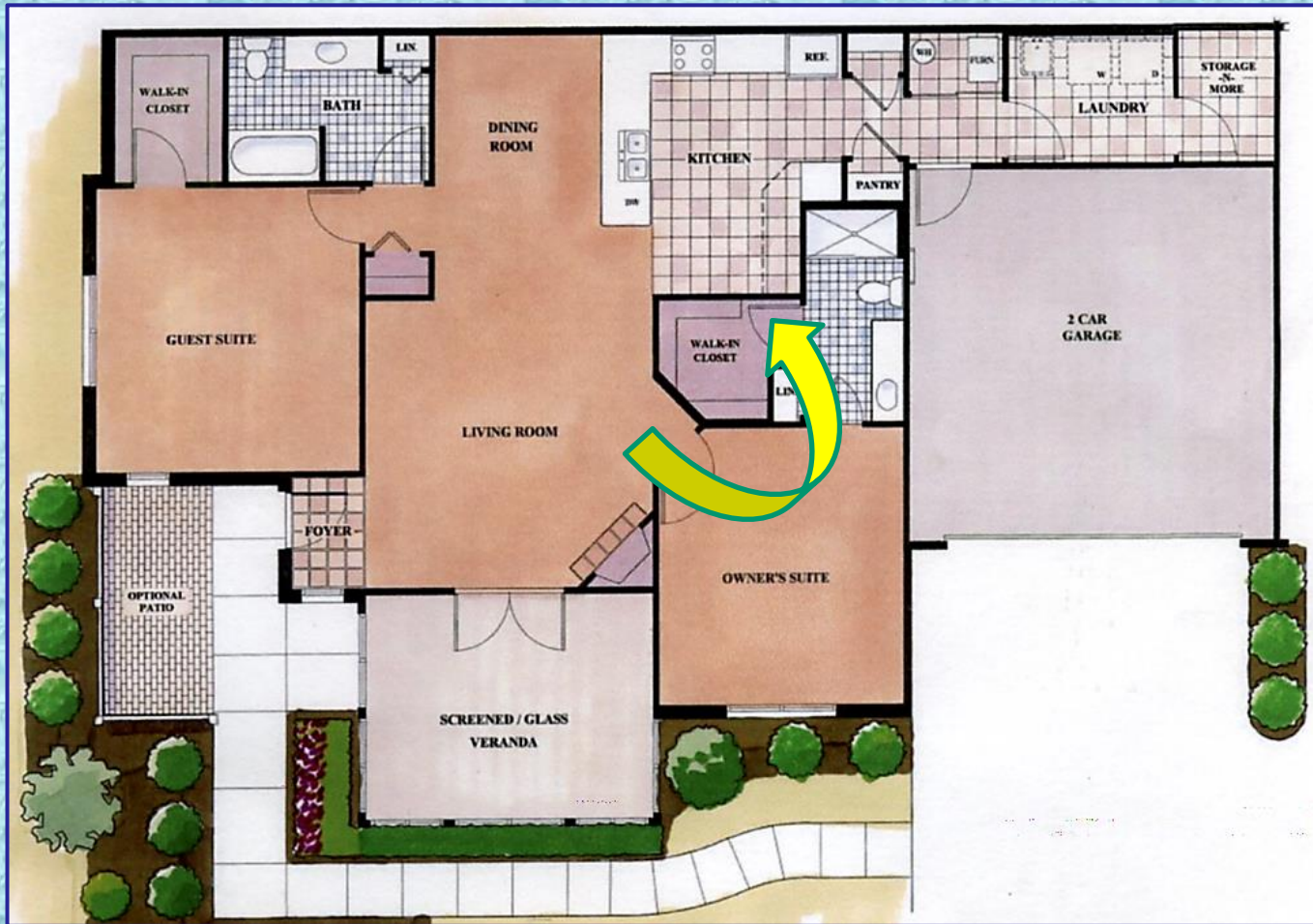


# Preparing for Severe Weather

- Choose an interior room on the lowest level of your house, as far away as possible from windows, doors, and outside walls
- If your apartment is not safe, plan ahead for another location to go to

# Preparing for Severe Weather

## a safe room





# Preparing for Severe Weather



go to the lowest floor

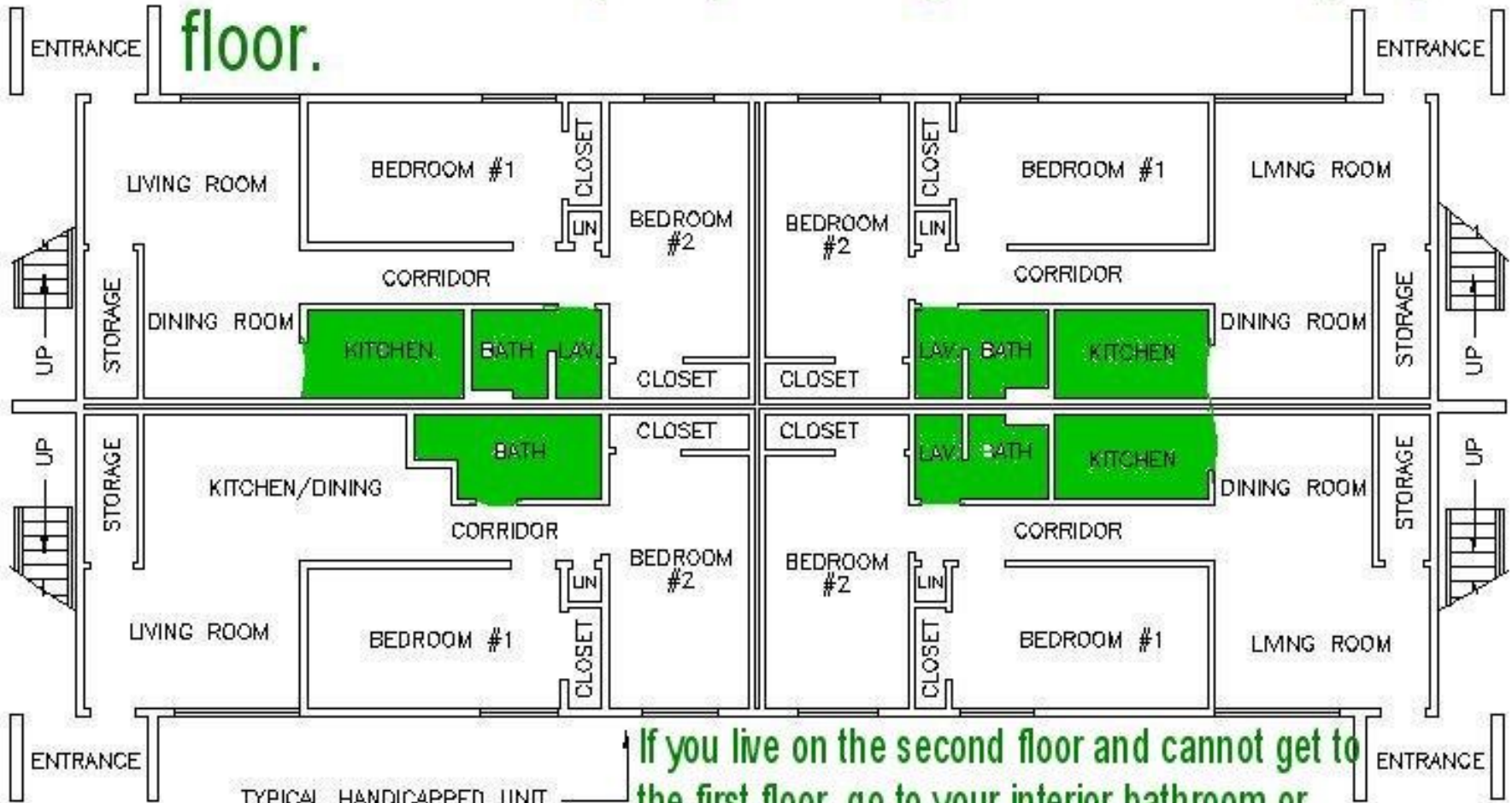


# Preparing for Severe Weather

- stay away from windows
- go to a small center room like a bathroom or closet or a middle hallway with no windows



# Second Floor (2nd) must go to the first (1st) floor.



**GREG PAGE APARTMENTS  
TYPICAL UNIT FLOOR PLAN**

If you live on the second floor and cannot get to the first floor, go to your interior bathroom or closet and cover yourself with a mattress or blanket until the Tomado passes.



# Preparing for Severe Weather

- Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down
- Cover your head with your hands





# Preparing for Severe Weather

- Get into the bathtub
- Cover yourself with some sort of thick padding like a mattress or several blankets



# Preparing for Severe Weather

A helmet can offer some protection against head injury



# So What Should You Do Now?

- Prepare a plan for when severe weather comes including your safe place
- Talk to your family about the plan
- Practice the plan regularly with your family

**And Stay Safe!**