

Hail

Hail forms in the core of a thunderstorm. Water vapour in warm, rapidly rising air masses (convection currents) condenses into water at higher, cooler altitudes. This produces heavy rain showers.

If it is cold enough, ice crystals can form around minute particles such as dust whipped up from the ground. These increase in size as more water freezes onto their surfaces. When the ice pellets are too heavy for the rising air currents to lift, they fall as hail. They may become larger, heavier and more damaging if they collect more water on the way down.

Hailstones have a minimum diameter of half a centimetre. Below that they are defined as snow or ice pellets. Hail can grow larger than 10 centimetres - the size of a grapefruit. Hail can hit the ground at 130 kilometres per hour and can cause severe damage to crops, houses and vehicles as well as injuries to people and animals.



Hail occurs right across Canada, though more frequently in Alberta, the southern Prairies and southern Ontario. For many Canadians, a hail storm is an intriguing rarity but for farmers whose crops are crushed - or other Canadians whose homes and cars are damaged - a hailstorm can translate into a financial burden.

Hail warning

- Hail can cause serious personal injury. Stay inside and away from windows.
- Pets and livestock are also vulnerable to injury so ensure animals are properly sheltered.
- Inspect your property and vehicles thoroughly for damage after the storm.

When disaster strikes

- Remain calm. Co-ordinated emergency services are responding.
- Check for updates.
 - Halton Region's **Enhanced Community Emergency Notification Service (eCNS)** is an emergency telephone notification service. It will be used in the event of a major disaster or catastrophe to communicate updates about emergency conditions, and other vital information, in addition to what you'll receive from other sources.
 - Check our websites for updates about emergency conditions, what to do, where to go or other information you should know.
 - You may also receive information from television, radio and other sources, including door-to-door notification.
- Help family members and neighbours.
- Don't forget your pets!

Be emergency ready – prepare for the first 72 hours of an emergency

- Know the risks
- Make a plan
- Get a survival kit

More information

To download Halton's Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide, learn more about Halton's Emergency Management program and what you can do to be prepared, visit **halton.ca/beprepared**, dial 311 or visit your local government website.



halton.ca 311

