

Sandstorm checklist for the UAE

NCEMA advice for sandstorms

Before a sandstorm

- ☐ Follow weather forecasts and official media and social media accounts.
- ☐ Close windows tightly and secure loose items such as metal sheets, TV aerials and garden tools.
- ☐ Park your car where the storm is unlikely to damage it.
- ☐ Keep children indoors, and put off outdoor work until the storm has passed.

During a sandstorm

- ☐ Limit time outdoors, and keep children with asthma, allergies or breathing problems inside unless it is urgent.
- ☐ Keep away from glass windows and doors.
- ☐ If you are outside, get to a safe place and tell someone where you are.
- ☐ Cover your nose and mouth with a mask or damp cloth, and protect your eyes with glasses.
- ☐ Do not stand under tall trees, and avoid open areas, especially if you have allergies, asthma or a chest infection.
- ☐ If you receive an evacuation order, follow it immediately.

Driving in a sandstorm

- ☐ Listen to weather updates on the radio.
- ☐ Drive slowly, do not overtake and keep a safe distance, especially if visibility drops suddenly.
- ☐ Close the outside air intake if the air conditioning is on.
- ☐ Use hazard lights only to warn other drivers.
- ☐ If you must stop, pull completely off the road and call your family to say you are safe.
- ☐ If visibility becomes extremely poor, leave the main road if you can, stop and keep your lights on.

After the storm

- ☐ Do not leave home until you are sure things are back to normal.
- ☐ Watch for sand on the road: drive slowly, do not overtake, and take extra care where sand can make you skid.

Emergency numbers

999 Police

998 Ambulance

997 Civil Defence

Advice from the UAE federal emergency authority (NCEMA). Always follow current instructions from UAE authorities.