



Dust in the Wind

Now here's something you don't see every day. In fact, most of us will never see one of these in our lifetime. No, it's not a herd of wild Tasmanian devils. It's a sand storm approaching a military camp in Iraq. Whipping in at a speed of 60 mph and so thick in the middle that all light is snuffed out, this storm is a force to be reckoned with.

Now the thing about these sand storms is that, unlike snow (which most of us have experienced), sand doesn't melt when the storm is over. It gets into every nook and cranny. From food, clothes, and equipment to eyes, ears, and bellybuttons. Everywhere. It can ruin machinery and make your life miserable.

So what do you suppose these folks did? Absolutely right ... they made preparations for the storm. They covered things up, moved things indoors, checked for holes.

You may never experience a sand storm, but when severe weather is forecast for your area, be it a thunderstorm, a blizzard, or a hurricane, you need to prepare yourself well ahead of time. At the least, prepare an emergency kit, have an escape plan, and batten down the hatches.