

The Storm Machine

Audience: 8th grade students at Oklahoma middle schools.

Instructional Goals: By playing this game:

1. Students will be able to identify the dangers of severe thunderstorms.
2. Students will know the appropriate safety procedures to take in the events of a severe thunderstorm.

Genre: point-and-click adventure

Pitch: You are a hobby inventor (*not* a mad scientist!) who's created the blueprints to a machine that can stop incoming storms. The only problem is: you've misplaced the components. Adventure through your house and yard collecting the pieces that will make up your glorious machine.

Keep one eye on the weather, though! If you're not sheltering when things get bad, you won't be able to protect yourself or your invention from the ravages of the storm.

Gameplay

Students must find 4 parts to the Storm Machine, one in each area of the house. While they are searching they must keep an eye on their early warning system and environmental hints that a storm is approaching. Storms become more frequent and severe as the game progresses. If they are in the open when the storm hits, they lose all their parts and must start again. They can take temporary shelter in a Weather Shelter (marked with a sign) while they wait for the storm to pass, which will allow them to continue their journey without losing their progress.

Searchable areas

- Trailer (DIFFICULT: no storm shelter, glass windows, susceptible to wind)
- Backyard (MEDIUM: exposed to elements and flying debris, access to basement)
- Living Room (EASY: glass windows, access to basement)
- Basement (NO DANGER: this is where the player assembles the Storm Machine)

Storm warnings

- Heavy wind
- Rain
- Lightning
- Hail
- Flying debris



Students can also pull their phone out of their inventory to check the Warning System, which takes time but gives them an accurate prediction for how necessary shelter is at any moment.

Sheltering

Shelters are marked by a real-world Severe Weather Shelter sign, to familiarize students with this symbol.

They work similarly to the Li'l Miracle Stations in *Bendy and the Ink Machine*.

