



# TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

Be Informed and Ready





## **Before a Tornado**

To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.

In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.



Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.

Look for the following danger signs:

Dark, often greenish sky

Large hail

A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)

Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

Quick facts you should know about tornadoes:

They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.

They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.

The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.

The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.

Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.

Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm, but can occur at any time.





## KNOW THESE TERMS

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a tornado hazard:

**Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

**Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.



## During a Tornado

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.

### IF YOU ARE IN:

A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)

### THEN:

- Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Put on sturdy shoes.
- Do not open windows.



**IF YOU ARE IN:**

A trailer or mobile home

**THEN:**

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.

**IF YOU ARE IN:**

The outside with no shelter

**THEN:**

- Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
- Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.



## **After a Tornado**

Injury may result from the direct impact of a tornado or it may occur afterward when people walk among debris and enter damaged buildings.

Many Tornado-related injuries were suffered during rescue attempts, cleanup, and other post-tornado activities as well as injuries resulting from stepping on nails.

Because tornadoes often damage power lines, gas lines or electrical systems, there is a risk of fire, electrocution or an explosion.

Protecting yourself and your family requires promptly treating any injuries suffered during the storm and using extreme care to avoid further hazards.



## **Injuries**

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.

Get medical assistance immediately. If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained to do so.

Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound.

Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician.

If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location



## BUILD A KIT

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own [food](#), [water](#) and other [supplies](#) in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours.

Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages



## Suggestions:

If you have a cell phone, download apps from the local tv channels they will give you alerts when weather changes

When you away from home and the weather is tornado likely, be aware of your surroundings and make a mental plan should you need to take shelter

