

Tornado Safety Guidelines

away from home

GETTING THE WARNING

- Have 3 ways to get a warning
- Watch the skies for developing thunderstorms

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

- Don't depend on someone to tell you when to shelter
- If a warning is issued or you feel threatened, take cover quickly!

FINDING SHELTER

- A storm shelter or above ground safe room is best
- Otherwise, go to the lowest floor of a sturdy building
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
- Stay away from outside walls, doors and windows
- Cover yourself or get under something to avoid flying/falling debris
- It is not safe to drive when a tornado is nearby or in a tornado warning

If You Do Not Feel Safe From a Tornado Where You Are...

1. ...and you feel the need to drive somewhere else to find better shelter, it is critical that you do not wait too late to make that critical decision.

2. **If you wait until the tornado warning is in effect for your location, *it is too late to drive away safely!!!***

3. If you choose to leave in your vehicle, be sure you know where you are going before you start the car. Try to let someone know you are not at home and where you are going.

4. Do not assume that public buildings are tornado shelters. Check with your local community while the sun is still shining and before storms ever develop!

5. Be sure that you are not putting yourself in more danger by driving into another storm.

Tornado Safety Guidelines

Your chances of surviving even the strongest tornado are excellent if you follow these basic guidelines

Safest Place:

underground shelter
above ground safe room
basement

In a home or sturdy building:

go to the lowest level
put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
cover up with pillows or cushions to block flying debris

You are NOT safe:

in a vehicle
in a mobile home
outdoors

Tornado Safety for your Pets

GETTING READY

- Make sure your family's shelter area is large enough to hold your pets, too!
- Include your pets in your family tornado drills
- Make a kit that includes all the essentials your pet might need
 - Food and water, treats, medication
- Make sure your pets can be identified and returned to you if you are separated.

TAKING SHELTER

- Round up your pets and their supplies before the warning is issued, and have them ready to go to shelter.
- Take their leashes and/or carriers to shelter when you go. You will need them.
- If your shelter is somewhere other than home, do not assume they allow pets! Check in advance!
- If you take your pets to a shelter, remember you're responsible for their care, including cleaning up messes!

Are You Ready for Severe Weather?

The more you prepare in advance, the easier it will be to do the right thing, protect your family and have a calmer experience.

- Storm shelter cleaned out and ready for use?
- Flashlights and batteries?
- Weather radio programmed and working?
- Checking local forecast at least daily?
- Family aware of the plan and what to do?
- What about your pets?

Tornado Safety Guidelines

Your best defense against a tornado is to have a safety plan, pay attention to your local weather information, and act quickly if a tornado threatens you.

Your chances of surviving even the strongest tornado are excellent if you follow these basic guidelines, even if no safe room or underground shelter is available.

Develop a severe weather safety plan. Consider what actions you would take at home, work, school, or commuting. ***Make sure you and your family understand where to go to stay safe in a tornado.*** Practice the plan. Do it now – don't wait until storms are forecast!

Your safety depends on you being aware of the latest severe weather outlooks, watches, and warnings. ***Have at least three different ways to get life-saving warnings.***

WHEN STORMS THREATEN:

Stay calm, act quickly, and rely on your safety plan.

The safest place to be in a tornado is an underground storm shelter, above ground safe room, or basement.

If no underground shelter or safe room is available, go to the lowest level of a sturdy building or your home. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Avoid windows, doors and exterior walls. Closets and bathrooms are often good choices.

If possible, get under a sturdy table or desk. Cover up with pillows or cushions to protect against flying debris.

If you are in a mobile home, in a vehicle, or outdoors, find a storm shelter or sturdy building quickly. Cars, trucks, and mobile homes offer little protection and are not where you should be in a tornado.