

TORNADO

Tornadoes, the most violent natural hazard, are rotating, funnel-shaped clouds formed from thunderstorms. Strong winds are the most destructive aspect, with gusts reaching as high as 300 mph. The damage path can be a mile wide. Tornado season is generally March through August, but tornadoes can occur any time of the year. Tornadoes most often occur at the end of a thunderstorm. Eighty percent of tornadoes occur between noon and midnight. While some areas are more prone to tornadoes than others, they can occur anywhere, so it is best to be prepared.



How to Prepare for a Tornado

- Stay informed and know tornado terminology:
 - **Tornado Watch**—Weather conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado. Stay tuned to the radio or TV for more information and further instructions.
 - **Tornado Warning**—A tornado has been spotted. Take shelter immediately.
- Identify a place in your home to take shelter in case of a tornado:
 - A storm shelter or basement provides the best protection.
 - Otherwise, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
 - Have frequent tornado drills
 - If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.
- Get an emergency supply kit, and make a family emergency plan.

Who's Most at Risk

- People in automobiles
- The elderly, very young, and the physically or mentally impaired
- People in mobile homes
- People who may not understand warnings due to a language barrier

What to Do If There Is a Tornado

- Take shelter immediately in the designated room.
- If you are outside, find shelter immediately or, if shelter is unavailable, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car, stop immediately and find shelter. Do NOT try to drive through a tornado.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for information and instructions as they become available.
- Stay sheltered until the tornado has passed.

What to Do after a Tornado

- Stay clear of downed power lines.
- Stay out of damaged areas.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for further information or instructions.
- Inspect your home for damage, but be careful of unseen damage.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/tornadoes.html
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—www.fema.gov/hazard/tornado/index.shtm

Semper Paratus

Be “Always Ready.” Get an emergency supply kit good for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family, and be informed about what might happen.
