

TORNADOES

While it's **impossible to predict** when or where a tornado will strike, **you can be prepared**. Plan your family's **response to emergencies**.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:

** WATCH OR WARNING? **

A **TORNADO WATCH** is issued when conditions that favor the occurrence of tornadoes are **likely in your area**. If your area is under a Tornado Watch, you need to **be ready to enact your Family Disaster Plan** to protect your family.

A **TORNADO WARNING** is issued when a tornado has **already occurred**, or when one is **imminent in your area**. When under a Tornado Warning, **TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION** to protect yourself and your loved ones.



DEVELOP A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

When developing a **Family Disaster Plan**, consider the following:



- **Pick a Safe Room** in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a **basement, storm cellar** or an **interior room** on the **lowest floor with no windows**.



- If you live in a **mobile home** or temporary structure, **seek shelter** in a **nearby, sturdy building**. Mobile homes are susceptible to high-wind forces of tornadoes.



- **Have access to tornado warning information**. Consider the **purchase** of an **NOAA weather radio** with **tone alert feature** for updates on tornado watches and warnings.



- **Practice Tornado Drills** so everyone knows what to do. **Hold the drills** at different times, and **correct any problems** that prevent family members from quickly and safely getting to the Safe Room.



- **Have a Family Emergency Supply Kit** on hand in order to **survive** for at least **3 days** on your own or until **help arrives**.

HOW STRONG IS THAT TORNADO?



F-0

Light Damage. Chimneys damaged, tree branches broken, shallow-rooted trees toppled.



F-1

Moderate Damage. Roofing tiles peeled off, windows broken, some mobile home damage, utility buildings destroyed.



F-2

Considerable Damage. Roof structures damaged, mobile homes destroyed, debris becomes airborne, large trees snapped or uprooted.



F-3

Severe Damage. Roofs and walls torn from buildings, small buildings destroyed, most trees uprooted.



F-4

Devastating Damage. Well-built homes destroyed, buildings blown some distance, cars blown, large debris becomes airborne.



F-5

Incredible Damage. Strong-frame homes lifted from foundations, reinforced concrete structures damaged, car sized debris become airborne, trees completely debarked.

DURING THE STORM

- While under a **Tornado Watch**:
 - Listen to **NOAA weather radio** and **local media** for update information.
 - **Stay alert** for changes in weather conditions.
- While under a **Tornado Warning** and **in your home**:
 - Listen to **NOAA weather radio** or local media.
 - Have a **battery powered radio** in case the power goes out.
 - **GO TO YOUR SAFE ROOM** and **protect yourself** from glass and flying debris.
- While under a **Tornado Warning** in a **vehicle, trailer** or **mobile home**:
 - **GET OUT AT ONCE AND SEEK SHELTER** in a sturdy structure, on the lowest level, away from windows.

AFTER A TORNADO

Continue listening to media for updates and instructions.

Be alert for downed power lines or broken gas mains. **Report damage** as soon as possible.

Stay away from areas affected by the tornado. Let **rescue personnel** do their jobs unhindered.

Do not enter damaged buildings unless you're certain they are **structurally secure**.

Lend a hand to neighbors who need special assistance. **Help injured** or trapped people.

Apply **first aid** where necessary. Never attempt to move an injured person unless they are in additional danger.

If you evacuated, **don't return** to an affected area unless authorities say it's safe to do so.

MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY
BE PREPARED FOR TORNADOES