

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**.



- **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.



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



- **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.

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.

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.

MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY BE PREPARED FOR TORNADOES