

TORNADO SAFETY

Tornadoes occur when warm, moist air comes into contact with a cold front. Tornadoes tend to strike during the spring or summer months and most often between the hours of 3 and 9 p.m., but can happen at any time.

Before a tornado:

- Find out what warning signals and procedures your community has. Know where the established shelters are and know evacuation procedures for the elderly, disabled and animals.
- Establish family tornado safety drills and practice them. Check emergency procedures for daycares, hospitals, your workplace, etc. Choose 2 safe meeting places; one outside of your home for emergencies such as fire, and the other outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Be sure family members know where this safe shelter is and the phone number. Ask a relative or family member who lives out-of-state to be your family contact. Inform other family members that do not live with you to call this person for information.
- Inspect your home often for objects that could move, fall, break or cause damage or injury.
- Keep inventories and records in a safe place away from your home or in a waterproof container.
- Be sure you have adequate insurance coverage.

After a tornado:

- Do not go to the tornado scene. Remain calm and stay in your safe shelter or safe meeting place until the danger has passed and help arrives. The area must be kept clear for emergency personnel. Cooperate with local officials who are trained in emergency procedures.
- Apply first aid or seek aid for seriously injured people.
- Check for property and automobile damage.
- Clean up flammable or poisonous liquid spills.
- Call your family contact and alert them to your condition.
- When you check for gas or other utility line breaks, USE A FLASHLIGHT only. Never use a match, lighter or any open flame to check highly flammable items. Only turn off utilities if you suspect the lines are damaged or are instructed to do so.
- Be a good neighbor and help others in need.
- Avoid and report downed powerlines.
- Only use water that is declared safe for consumption.
- Contact your insurance company.

Tornado Watch:

- Conditions are favorable for severe weather, including a tornado.
- Check local weather reports.
- Locate all members of your family and review your tornado drill.
- Make sure your first aid kit is in place.
- If time permits, secure items that could be carried away or propelled.
- Park vehicles in the garage if possible.

Tornado Warning:

- A tornado has been spotted – take cover immediately!
- Stay away from glass, outside walls and things that could fall on you.
- Seek shelter in a basement, storm cellar or lowest level of your home; and in the smallest room, closet or hallway near the middle of your house or in a bathtub cushioned with a mattress.
- Take a flashlight with you.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If in a trailer or car, get out immediately and do not seek shelter under or in them. Look for a safe shelter, such as a school, shopping center or neighbor's basement. If none can be found, stay as low as possible to the ground, face down in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert, or under a highway overpass holding firmly to the foundation.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in a car!

