



TORNADO

Tornadoes are the most violent of natural hazards, characterized by rotating, funnel-shaped clouds originating from thunderstorms. Their destructive power stems from extremely high wind speeds, potentially reaching 300 mph, and a damage path that can extend a mile wide.

While tornado season typically runs from March through August, these events can occur year-round. They most frequently develop at the rear of thunderstorms, with the majority occurring between noon and midnight.



Although certain regions are more susceptible, tornadoes can happen anywhere. Therefore, proactive preparedness is crucial. This includes assembling an emergency supply kit and developing a comprehensive family emergency plan.

Tornado Terminology:

- **Tornado Watch:** Conditions are favorable for tornado development. Monitor radio/TV for updates.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted. Seek immediate shelter.

Shelter & Preparedness:

- Identify a designated safe room in your home – a storm shelter or basement is best.
- If there is no basement, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
- Conduct regular tornado drills.
- Monitor forecasts before outdoor trips and take appropriate action.

Populations at Higher Risk:

- Individuals in automobiles.
- The elderly, young children, and those with physical or mental impairments.
- Residents of mobile homes.
- Individuals with language barriers who may not understand warnings.

During a Tornado:

- Immediately take shelter in your designated safe room.
- If outdoors, find immediate shelter or lie flat in a ditch/low-lying area.
- If in a vehicle, stop immediately and seek shelter.
- Continuously monitor radio/TV for updates and instructions.

After a Tornado:

- Remain in shelter until the tornado has passed.
- Report to your command once safe.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Stay away from damaged areas.
- Continue monitoring radio/TV for further information.
- Carefully inspect your home for damage, being aware of potential unseen hazards.

Where to Find Additional Information:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/tornadoes/about/index.html>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/tornado>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.

