



Are You Ready for a Tornado?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such an emergency

Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

- ✓ Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- ✓ If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit containing—

- ✓ First aid kit and essential medications.
- ✓ Canned food and can opener.
- ✓ At least three gallons of water per person.
- ✓ Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags.
- ✓ Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- ✓ Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.
- ✓ Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

Conduct periodic tornado drills so everyone remembers what to do when a tornado is approaching.

Stay tuned for storm warnings

- ✓ Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- ✓ Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:
 - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
 - A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.
- ✓ Tornado WATCHES and WARNINGS are issued by county or parish.

When a tornado WATCH is issued—

- ✓ Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates.
- ✓ Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

When a tornado WARNING is issued—

- ✓ If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The tornado may be approaching your area.
- ✓ If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- ✓ If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).

After the tornado passes—

- ✓ Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- ✓ Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- ✓ Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage.
- ✓ Do not use candles at any time.