

# 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.

## 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.

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

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

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

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**.

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

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