

Tornado Safety



A **tornado watch** is issued when weather conditions favor the formation of tornados, for example during a severe thunderstorm. During a Tornado Watch:

Stay tuned to local radio and TV stations or a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for further weather information. Watch the weather and be prepared to take shelter immediately if conditions worsen.

A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado funnel is sighted or indicated by weather radar. A continuous siren will sound and you should take shelter immediately.

During a Tornado

Some tornados strike rapidly, without time for a tornado warning and sometimes without a thunderstorm in the vicinity. The following weather signs may mean that a tornado is approaching:

A dark or green colored sky

A large, dark, low-lying cloud

Large hail

A loud roar that sounds like a freight train

If you notice any of these weather conditions, take cover immediately and keep tuned to local radio and TV stations or to a NOAA weather radio.

The key to surviving a tornado and reducing the risk of injury lies in planning and preparing what you and your family will do if a tornado strikes.

At Home:

The safest place is the interior part of a basement. If there is no basement, go to an inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor. Avoid windows.

In a Mobile Home:

Do not stay in a mobile home during a tornado! Mobile homes can turn over during strong winds. Even mobile homes with a tie-down system cannot withstand the force of tornado winds.

On the Road:

Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car.

