



Listener Information: Tornadoes

To Prepare:

- Conduct Tornado Drills each season
 - Designate an area in your home as a shelter (basement, storm cellar, interior room with no windows on the lowest level of the house), and practice having your family go there in response to a tornado threat.
- Discuss with family members the difference between a “Tornado Watch” and a “Tornado Warning”
 - A Watch means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop.
 - A Warning means a tornado has been spotted on the ground.
- Develop an Emergency Communication Plan
 - In case you are separated at the time of the storm, have a plan for getting back together
 - Ask an out-of-area relative or friend to serve as the “family contact” after a disaster as it’s often easier to call long distance rather than locally after a storm; and make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact.
- Have Disaster Supplies on Hand
 - Flashlight and Extra Batteries
 - Portable, battery-operated Radio and Extra Batteries
 - First Aid Kit
 - Emergency Food and Water
 - Non-Electric Can Opener
 - Essential Medicines
 - Cash and Credit Cards
 - Sturdy Shoes
- Be Situationally Aware, and don’t take unnecessary risks during severe weather.
- If you Live in a Mobile Home, know where your shelter is located, and give yourself plenty of time to go to the shelter in the event of a tornadic storm

Listener Information: Tornadoes (continued)

During the Storm:

- If at home:
 - Go at once to your designated shelter – be it a basement, storm cellar, or a smaller interior room on the lowest level w/o Windows (such as a bathroom or closet)
 - Get away from all Windows
 - Go to the center of the room, corners tend to attract debris
 - Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as workbench or heavy table/desk and hold on to it.
 - Use arms to protect head and neck
 - Again, if in a mobile home...**GET OUT!!!!!!** And seek shelter elsewhere
- If at work or school:
 - Go to the basement or to an interior hallway on the lowest level
 - Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, or shopping malls
 - Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table/desk and hold on to it.
 - Use arms to protect head and neck.
- If Outdoors:
 - If possible, get inside a building
 - If shelter is unavailable or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. **Be aware of potential for flooding.**
 - Use arms to protect head and neck.
- If in a car:
 - **NEVER** try to outdrive a tornado. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift and toss a car or truck through the air.
 - Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building.
 - If there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. **Be aware of potential for flooding.**

After the Storm:

- Help injured or trapped persons
- Give first aid when appropriate
- Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury

Listener Information: Tornadoes (continued)

- Call for Help.
- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home (if away from home) only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Use phone **ONLY** for Emergency Calls.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Take pictures of any damage—both to the house and to its contents—for insurance purposes
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance—infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Check for Gas Leaks
 - If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave.
 - Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if possible
 - Call the Gas Company from a neighbor's home or from your cellphone away from the house.
 - **IF you turn off the Gas for ANY reason a professional MUST turn it back on.**
- Look for Electrical System Damage
 - If you see sparks or broken/frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.
 - If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker **DON'T!** call an electrician for advice first.
- Check for sewage and/or Water Line Damage
 - If Sewage lines are damaged avoid using toilets and call a plumber.
 - If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap
 - Clean Water may be attained by Boiling or by melting ice cubes.

The Enhanced Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity

- **EF-0:** Wind Speeds 65 – 85 mph; chimney damage and tree branches broken
- **EF-1:** Wind Speeds 86 – 110 mph; mobile homes pushed off foundation/overturned
- **EF-2:** Wind Speeds 111 – 135 mph; mobile homes destroyed, trees uprooted
- **EF-3:** Wind Speeds 136 – 165 mph; roofs & walls torn down, trains overturned, cars thrown
- **EF-4:** Wind Speeds 166 – 200 mph; well-constructed homes and buildings leveled.
- **EF-5:** Wind Speeds 200+ mph; pretty much total destruction.