

## SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING TORNADO

- Tornadoes are especially dangerous because they can arrive unexpectedly, allowing little time to respond. If you are out of doors, be alert to:
- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall Cloud
- Debris dropping from the sky or an approaching cloud of debris, such as twigs and leaves, being pulled upward.
- Unusual quiet and stillness occurring during or immediately after a thunderstorm.
- Large hail in connection with any of the other signs described above.
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

## WHEN A TORNADO WATCH IS ISSUED

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates
- Be alert to changing weather conditions.

## WHEN A TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED...

- If you are inside, go to the safe place you selected. Don't forget to take your pets!
- Take a battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Take a cellular phone and whistle to use in case you are trapped by debris.
- If you are outside hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low lying area.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

## IF YOU ARE IN A VEHICLE

- Never attempt to out-drive a tornado. Tornadoes change direction quickly and unpredictably.
- Get out of your vehicle immediately, they can be easily picked up and thrown by the force of the tornado.
- If there is no time to find shelter, get out of vehicle and lie flat in a ditch or low area as far from vehicle as possible.
- Do NOT go under an overpass or bridge, you are safer in a low and flat area.

## AFTER THE TORNADO PASSES

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of damaged area.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage. Do not use candles!
- Check on the elderly and your pets.
- Take pictures of your damaged property for insurance claims.
- Inspect utilities. If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound evacuate immediately. If you see sparks or damaged wires, turn off the electricity at the fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Follow authorities' instructions and turn off gas, electricity and water.
- In the days following, there will be news broadcasts of who to notify and how to make claims for property damage.

### **Learning about and preparing for a disaster is not done out of fear, but out of commitment:**

- **To yourself**
- **To your family**
- **To your neighbors**
- **To your community**

# A THUNDERSTORM AND TORNADO GUIDE



## PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY TIPS



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## THUNDERSTORMS

Even when small, all thunderstorms should be considered dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, a cause of more deaths each year than tornadoes, and heavy rain can lead to flash flooding.



### FACTS ABOUT THUNDERSTORMS

- They may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines.
- Typically produce heavy rain for a brief 30 – 60 minutes
- About 10% of thunderstorms are classified as severe with hail 3/4", winds at or greater than 58 mph, or producing a tornado.

### WHILE IN SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH

- Use NOAA Weather Radio with a tone alert feature to keep informed.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. Look for places you might seek shelter should severe weather threaten.
- If you can hear thunder, you may be close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning, go to safe shelter immediately.
- Secure outdoor objects

### DURING A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, battery operated radio or television for updates.
- Draw blinds or drapes over windows
- Unplug appliances, turn off air conditioner
- Avoid turning on water.

### IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUTSIDE

- If you feel your hair standing on end, lightning is about to strike. Remove metal objects from your person and crouch low with feet together and hands on knees. Do NOT lie flat!
- If boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter.
- If you are in the woods, find an area protected by a low clump of trees or shrubs.
- If in an open space such as a field or golf course, remove and toss metal objects away from your person or others near you.
- Crouch low with hands on knees, head down
- Avoid tall structures such as towers, tall trees or fences, and move away from any telephone or power lines.

### DRIVING DURING A THUNDERSTORM

- Pull safely onto the shoulder of the road with flashers on, making sure you are away from trees or tall objects.
- Avoid contact with metal or conductive surfaces outside or inside the car.
- Avoid flooded roadways.

### AFTER A THUNDERSTORM

- Continue to listen to local radio or television for updated information.
- Stay away from storm damaged areas.
- Watch out for fallen power lines and report them immediately.

### IF SOMEONE IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

- Call 911
- If breathing has stopped, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Check for pulse, administer CPR if no pulse
- Check for burns, which may occur in two places: the point at which the lightning struck and the point at which the electricity exited the body.

## TORNADOES

One of nature's most awesome displays of power, an advancing tornado allows little time to make life or death decisions, your survival may depend on your quick response and advance planning.



### HAVE A HOME TORNADO PLAN

Pick a place for family members to gather: a basement, or center hallway, bathroom or closet on the lowest floor. Make a plan for reaching each other if adults are at work and children are at school. Choose an out-of-town friend or relative as a family contact and commit your contact's number to memory – after a disaster it is often easier to call long distance.

Know the difference between a tornado watch and a warning:  
A **TORNADO WATCH** means a tornado is possible in your area  
A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted and is headed your way. Go to safety immediately.