

TORNADO SAFETY



In an average year, 1000 tornadoes are reported, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. Tornadoes have been reported in every state and can happen at any time of the year. Take tornadoes seriously, because with winds blowing at 200 mph or more, a tornado can destroy just about anything in its path. Always listen to the radio and television for the latest information and instructions for your area.

Some Terms:

A **TORNADO WATCH** means tornadoes are possible in your area. Stay tuned to the radio or television news.

A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado is either on the ground or has been detected by Doppler radar. Seek shelter immediately!

BEFORE A TORNADO:

- Have a disaster plan. Make sure everyone knows where to go in case a tornado threatens.
- Make sure you know which county or parish you live in.
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit for your home and car. Include a first aid kit, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, battery-operated radio, flashlight, protective clothing and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water.

DURING A TORNADO:

- Go to a basement.
- If you do not have a basement, go to an interior room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet, on the lowest floor.
- If you can, get under a sturdy piece of furniture, like a table.

- If you live in a mobile home, get out. They offer little protection against tornadoes.
- Get out of automobiles. Do not try to out-run a tornado in your car. Leave it immediately.
- If you're outside, go to a ditch or low lying area and lie flat in it.
- Stay away from fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.

IF YOU'RE AT SCHOOL DURING A TORNADO:

- Every school should have a disaster plan and have frequent drills.
- Basements offer the best protection.
- Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor away from windows.
- Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.

AFTER A TORNADO:

- Stay indoors until it is safe to come out.
- Check for injured or trapped people, without putting yourself in danger.
- Watch out for downed power lines.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home.