

# TORNADO SAFETY TIPS



Tornadoes are unpredictable and often-deadly storms. Planning ahead can make this frightening situation a little easier to handle.

Each home should have a **disaster kit** for any emergency, including:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person (one gallon per day), and a similar supply for pets.
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries. Hand-crank radios can also be used in times of emergency. **NEVER** use candles!
- Special items for infants, the elderly, and disabled family members.

Identify where you could go if told to evacuate, having several places in mind to prepare for different outcomes. Think of different motels, shelters or family/friends in unaffected areas.

### **Prepare a home tornado plan:**

- Pick a place for family members to gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.

### **Stay tuned for storm warnings:**

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:
  - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
  - A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been spotted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.

### **If a tornado WATCH is issued:**

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

### **If a tornado WARNING is issued:**

- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The tornado may be approaching your area.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).