



# TORNADO

Tornadoes, the most violent natural hazard, are rotating, funnel-shaped clouds formed from thunderstorms. Strong winds are the most destructive aspect, with gusts reaching as high as 300 mph. The damage path can be a mile wide. Tornado season is generally March through August, but tornadoes can occur any time of the year. Tornadoes most often occur at the tail end of a thunderstorm. Eighty percent of tornadoes occur between noon and midnight. While some areas are more prone to tornadoes than others, they can occur anywhere, so it is best to be prepared.



## ***How to Prepare for a Tornado***

- Stay informed and know tornado terminology:
  - **Tornado watch**—Weather conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado. Stay tuned to the radio or TV for more information and further instructions.
  - **Tornado warning**—A tornado has been spotted. Take shelter immediately.
- Identify a place in your home to take shelter in case of a tornado:
  - A storm shelter or basement provides the best protection.
  - Otherwise, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
  - Have frequent tornado drills
  - If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.
- Get an emergency supply kit, and make a family emergency plan.

## ***Who's Most at Risk***

- People in automobiles.
- The elderly, very young and the physically or mentally impaired.
- People in mobile homes.
- People who may not understand the warning due to a language barrier.

## ***What to Do If There Is a Tornado***

- Take shelter immediately in the designated room.
- If you are outside, find shelter immediately or, if shelter is unavailable, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car, stop immediately and find shelter. Do NOT try to drive through a tornado.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for information and instructions as they become available.



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### ***What to Do After a Tornado (Continued)***

- Stay in shelter until the tornado has passed.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.
- Stay clear of downed power lines.
- Stay out of damaged areas.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for further information or instructions.
- Inspect your home for damage, but be careful of unseen damage.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—<https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—  
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/>
- American Red Cross—<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/tornado>
- Ready Army—[www.ready.army.mil](http://www.ready.army.mil)

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.**

