

Severe Weather

TORNADO SAFETY

Each year about 1,000 tornadoes touch down in the US. While only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings you can greatly reduce your chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

BE ALERT to the onset of severe weather

- When the weather starts looking stormy turn to the local radio or television or internet weather site to get your forecast

BE AWARE of what is happening outside ... here are some things people describe when they tell about a tornado experience

- Sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky
- When HAIL occurs, and a WATCH or WARNING has been posted, HAIL can be a real danger sign
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky
- A sound like a waterfall or rushing air but turning into a roar as it comes closer
- Debris falling from the sky
- An obvious “funnel-shaped” cloud rotating, or debris being pulled upward, even if no funnel cloud is visible

FIND THE SAFEST SHELTER

- Basement or shelter specifically for storm protection
- Small, windowless, first floor, interior room – like a closet or bathroom or interior hallway AWAY from windows
- Put as many walls between you and the tornado as possible
- AVOID areas that open to the southwest, south or west; stay away from glass
- CROUCH DOWN and make as small a target as possible

PREPARE A “RED CROSS” DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- First Aid Kit (essential medications added to usual items)
- Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra FRESH batteries
- Canned and other non-perishable food and hand operated can opener
- Bottled water
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves
- Written instructions on how to turn off your homes’ utilities

Sources/Additional Information: fema.gov, weather.gov, nws.noaa.gov, American Red Cross