



FACT SHEET: TORNADOES

When a tornado is coming, you only have a short amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Advance planning and quick responses are the keys to surviving a tornado.

BEFORE THE TORNADO HITS

- ◆ Conduct tornado drills each tornado season.
- ◆ Designate a shelter, and everyone should practice going there in response to a tornado threat.
- ◆ Discuss with family members the difference between a "tornado *watch*" and a "tornado *warning*."
- ◆ The National Weather Service issues a *tornado watch* when tornadoes are possible in your area.
- ◆ A *tornado warning* is issued when a tornado has been sighted or is indicated by radar.
- ◆ Contact your National Weather Service for more information on tornadoes.

MOBILE HOMES

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to strong winds. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. When a tornado warning is issued, take shelter in a building with a strong foundation. If shelter is not available, then lie in a ditch or another low-lying area far away from the mobile home.

IF A TORNADO WATCH IS ISSUED

Remain alert for approaching storms. This is the time to remind everyone of where the safest places are.

Listen to NOAA weather radio or other media for further developments.

IF A TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED OR A TORNADO IS SIGHTED

- ◆ If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.
- ◆ Stay away from the windows.
- ◆ Go at once to a windowless interior room, storm cellar, basement, or lowest level of the building.
- ◆ If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- ◆ Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- ◆ Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- ◆ Use arms to protect head and neck.