

Campground Weather-Ready Checklist

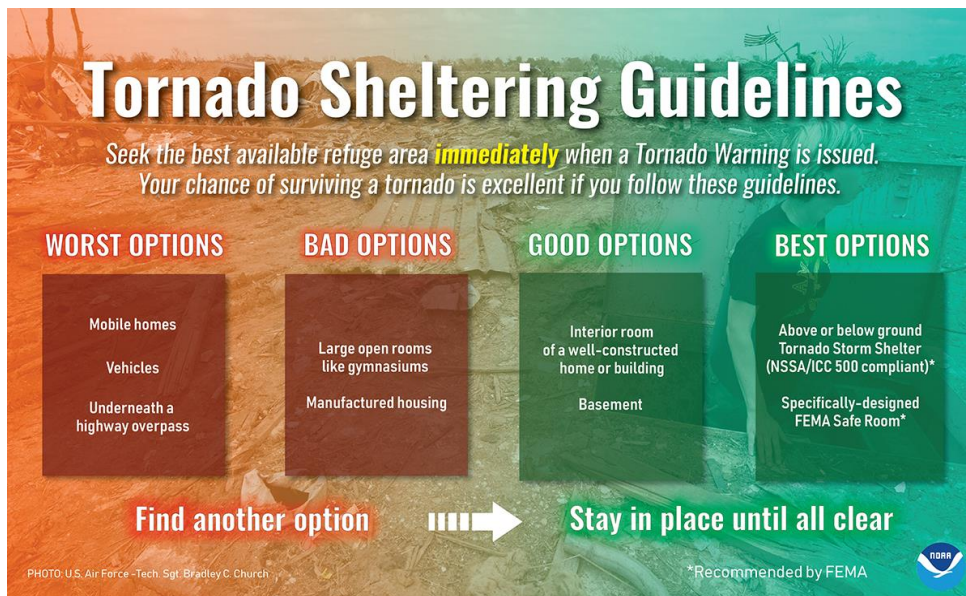
Summary

1. Plan 2. Practice 3. Monitor 4. Act

These four elements provide an effective, comprehensive approach to severe weather preparedness. Each element is a part of the whole. If any piece is missing, you don't have a complete pie, and you won't have the same result

Plan (Template at the bottom of this document)

1. Identify and clearly mark storm shelters.
 - a. Lightning: https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/lightning_safety
 - b. Severe Thunderstorms/Tornadoes:



2. Know where to get Weather Information

- a. Have **multiple** ways of receiving weather forecasts and warnings which can include any of the following:
 - i. Operational [NOAA Weather Radio](#) in a staffed location
 - ii. Subscribe to have weather alerts delivered to your cell phone:
www.weather.gov/subscribe
 - iii. Smartphone applications
 - iv. Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your cell phone:
<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>
 - v. Bookmarked list of weather Internet sites which should include www.weather.gov/rnk. Multiple ways to access the internet in the event of power loss.
 - vi. Battery powered AM/FM radio
 - vii. Register for alerts through your local government

3. Communication Abilities to Disseminate Weather Warnings

Demonstrate multiple ways of communicating / disseminating important weather information through your facility which can include any of the following:

- e. Public Announcement (PA)
- f. Text Alerting System
- g. Sirens
- h. Phone calls/Phone Tree
- i. Email lists
- j. Electronic signs
- k. Setup a weather hotline for campers to call in. Recorded message highlighting daily threats

Practice

- a. Practice your plan at least once a year.
- b. Participate in annual statewide tornado drills: https://www.weather.gov/safety/events_calendar
- c. Practice moving to your identified shelters
- d. Considering taking an NWS SKYWARN Spotter Training class online:
www.weather.gov/rnk/skywarn

- e. Develop outdoor signs raising awareness to daily hazardous weather threats
- f. Provide campers with weather preparedness handouts for thunderstorms, flash flooding, heat and wildfires.
- g. Ensure all new staff is trained in hazardous weather threats and plans
- h. Review all weather threat plans, and update as needed
- i. Update your list & bookmarks of weather web sites
- j. Update all contact lists, phone number and email lists
- k. Reach out to your city or county emergency manager to maintain awareness of your organizational response, preparation and communication plan

Monitor



Always designate a *weather watcher* who is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and have multiple ways to receive weather alerts. Check the forecast at least once a day.

DO NOT rely on sirens!

- a. Resources:
 - a. www.weather.gov/rnk and <https://www.weather.gov/rnk/emer>
 - b. NOAA Weather Radio
 - c. Local TV and Radio stations
 - d. Social Media: @NWSBlacksburg of fb.com/NWSBlacksburg
 - e. Smartphone weather apps
 - f. Subscribe to have weather alerts delivered: www.weather.gov/subscribe
- b. Self-briefing sources (consider bookmarking these sites):

- a. 3-7 days in advance of the event:
 - i. NWS hazardous weather outlook: <https://www.weather.gov/erh/ghwo?wfo=rnk>
 - ii. Severe Weather: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/exper/day4-8/>
 - iii. Flash Flooding/Rainfall: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#page=qpf>
 - iv. Heat Index: https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_index.shtml
- b. 1-3 days in advance of the event:
 - i. NWS website: www.weather.gov/rnk
 - ii. Hourly Weather Forecast:
<https://forecast.weather.gov/gridpoint.php?site=rnk&TypeDefault=graphical>
 - iii. Severe Weather: <https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/>
 - iv. Flash Flooding: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#page=ero>
 - v. Heat Index: <https://go.usa.gov/xtGTA>
- c. Winter Forecast: www.weather.gov/rnk/winter
- d. Situational Awareness (day of the event):
 - i. <https://go.usa.gov/xtGTF>
 - ii. <https://weather.im/iembot/> (select “rnkchat Blacksburg”)

Act

Act IMMEDIATELY when a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning is issued, as you may only have a few minutes of lead time.

- **GET IN:** Move to your pre-designated storm shelters
- **GET DOWN:** To the lowest floor
- **COVER UP:** Falling and flying debris causes the most injuries and fatalities during storms.

Establish sheltering/response criteria

- a. Based on watches, warnings, reports, other?
- b. Consider how much time you need for people to reach shelter.

How will action be initiated?

- a. Means of communication. How will campers be notified?
- b. Backup plan.

Appropriate Sheltering

- a. Interior of a building
- b. Rooms without windows
- c. Roof tied to walls; walls tied to foundation
- d. Protection of “missiles” (flying objects)

Enough Space?

- a. Consider number of visitors
- b. Enough time to reach shelter
- c. How will you communicate an “All-Clear” message?



Questions? Call the National Weather Service in Blacksburg at: **540-553-8900** or email: **rnk.skywarn@noaa.gov**

Effective Severe Weather Plan Worksheet:

1. Who is the designated weather watcher? _____
2. Identify thresholds and actions:


Threat	Threshold(s)	Actions
Flooding		
Heat		
Lightning		
Severe thunderstorms/Tornadoes		
Winter Weather		

3. **Communication:** How will the threat be communicated and with whom?

List methods of communicating with staff and visitors (should be at least 3 methods):

4. **Sheltering: Identify shelter areas:**

Move from this area	To this area
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5. Training: Train all staff and their roles:

a. **Training Completed:** _____

6. Sheltering drills:

a. **Drill Completed:**_____ **Time to shelter:**_____

7. Leaving the shelter area:

a. **Who decides:**_____

b. **How is this communicated:**_____