



College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team



Tornado Safety

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Tornados can happen at any time and can cause great damage to you and your property. Every state is at some risk so it is important that you take the necessary steps in keeping you and your family safe.

Before The Storm

- **It is important to be prepared**
 - Be sure to have a communication plan
 - Assemble an emergency food kit
 - Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and a battery backup available
 - Practice makes perfect. Be sure to practice your emergency drill frequently
- **Tornado warning signs**
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train

Important

If you see any of these signs or a storm approaching be prepared to take shelter immediately. Follow all instructions given by emergency personnel. Listen for warnings sirens and announcements.

Taking Shelter

- **In a home with a basement:**
 - Take shelter in the center of basement or in an inside room
 - Avoid windows
 - Get under a sturdy table or work bench if available
 - Use your arms to protect your head and neck
 - Know where heavy objects are on the floor above you and avoid areas below them; they may fall through the floor



*Go to our website www.tnstate.edu/agriculture for additional
Disaster Education Resources.*

Call (615) 963-1375 for more information.



- **In a home without a basement, a dorm, or an apartment**
 - Take shelter on the lowest level floor
 - Avoid windows and find a small center room (bathroom or closet) or interior hallway
 - Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside
 - Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down, and use your arms to protect your head and neck
 - If available, crouch in a bathtub and/or under a mattress
 - Know where heavy objects are on the floor above you, they may fall through the floor
- **In a mobile home or trailer**
 - Before there is a tornado threat, talk to the manager of the park to find out where to go in the event of a tornado
 - If there is a tornado or tornado warning get out immediately
 - Go to a designated shelter, a sturdy nearby building, or lay in the nearest ravine or ditch
 - Use your arms to protect your head and neck
 - Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. Do not stay in them!
- **In an office building or other large buildings**
 - Take shelter on the lowest floor possible
 - Find an enclosed, windowless area, in the center of the building
 - Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside
 - Crouch as low as possible to the floor, use your arms to protect your head and neck
 - Avoid elevators, you could be trapped in them if the power is lost
- **Outdoors**
 - Avoid areas with many trees
 - Avoid areas where there are vehicles nearby
 - Lie down flat in a gully, ditch, or low spot on the ground
 - Use your arms to protect your head and neck
- **In a vehicle**
 - If you can see a tornado in the far distance take shelter in a nearby sturdy building
 - If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the vehicle. Stay in the vehicle with the seat belt on and put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket or coat if possible
 - If you can safely get to a low lying area (gully or ditch) leave your car and follow the recommendations for outdoors listed above
 - Do not get under an overpass or bridge and never try to outrun a tornado

After The Storm

- Gather your family and tend to those in need
- Watch out for electrical wires and other damage that may have occurred
- Once in a safe place wait for an emergency crew to arrive



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