



Tornado Facts

- Tornadoes are violent windstorms with a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Tornado season is usually March through August.
- Tornadoes can occur anywhere, but are most common in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, an area known as “Tornado Alley.”
- An outdoor warning is a siren system used to alert you of approaching bad weather.
- High winds and flying debris caused by tornadoes can damage vehicles, buildings, and trees. Power outages and other utility damage can also occur.

What is a Tornado Watch?

A **tornado watch** is issued to alert you and your family to the possibility of a tornado developing in your area. When a watch is announced, a tornado has not been seen, but the conditions are very favorable for tornadoes to occur at any moment.

Things to do when a Tornado Watch is issued

- Stay alert and watch for changing weather conditions.
- Listen to your local news reports and weather updates.
- Go over your emergency plan and find your emergency kit and evacuation box.
- Be ready to seek shelter at a moment’s notice.

What to look for during a Tornado Watch

- Dark greenish or orange-gray skies; large hail
- Large, dark, low-lying, rotating, or funnel-shaped clouds
- A loud roar, similar to a freight train

What is a Tornado Warning?

A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or identified on radar in your area. This means to take shelter in a safe, sturdy structure immediately.

Things to do when a Tornado Warning is issued

- Take shelter immediately.
- Listen to your local radio for updates.
- Follow your family’s emergency plan.

What not to do during a tornado

- Do **not** stay in a mobile home, because they offer very little protection.
- Do **not** open the windows in your home.
- Do **not** try to outrun a tornado in a car.