

How to be Prepared for a Tornado



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To stay safe during a tornado, prepare a plan and an emergency kit, be aware of weather conditions during thunderstorms, know the best places to shelter both indoors and outdoors, and always protect yourself from injury, especially your head.

Be prepared with the following items:

- Fresh batteries and a battery operated TV, radio, or internet enabled device to listen to the latest emergency information.
- A tornado emergency plan, including access to a safe shelter for yourself, your family, people with special needs, and your pets.
- An emergency kit (including water, non-perishable food, and medication).
- A list of important information, including telephone numbers.

Tip 1

Pay close attention to changing weather conditions in your area. The following weather signs may mean that a tornado is approaching:

Tip 2

- A dark or green-colored sky,
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud,
- Large hail,
- A loud roar that sounds like a freight train.

Falling and flying debris causes most injuries and deaths during a tornado. Although there is no completely safe place during a tornado, some locations are safer than others.

Tip 3

- Go to the basement or an inside room without windows on the lowest floor.
 - Examples include: storm cellar, bathroom, closet, and center hallway
- If possible, avoid sheltering in a room with windows.
- For added protection get under something sturdy (a heavy table), cover your body with a blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress, and protect your head with anything available.
- Do not stay in a mobile home.
- If you are in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado, but find the nearest sturdy building.

Tornado Watch vs. Tornado Warning

- A tornado watch means that a tornado is possible. A tornado watch is issued when weather conditions favor the formation of tornadoes.
- A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. You should immediately take shelter during a tornado warning.

Have a Tornado Emergency Plan

1. Identify a safe place in your home for household members and pets to gather during a tornado.
2. Sketch a floor plan of your home or walk through each room and discuss where and how to seek shelter.
3. Make sure everyone understands the tornado warning system in your area.
4. Teach your family how to administer basic first aid, how to use a fire extinguisher, and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.
5. Learn the emergency dismissal policy for your child's school.
6. Make sure your children know:
 - a. What a tornado is.
 - b. What tornado watches and warnings are.
 - c. What county they live in.
 - d. How to take shelter, at home and school.



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT