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## TORNADOES

While tornadoes commonly take place in the Midwest during the spring and summer, they have been reported in every state and they can happen at any time. A tornado may contain 200 mile an hour swirling winds and has the ability to destroy nearly everything in its path.

### What you can do to prepare:

- Create a Family Emergency Plan
  - Designate a place where the entire family should gather if a tornado is headed your way. The best place is usually the basement. If there is no basement, choose a center hallway, a bathroom or a closet on the lowest floor. If you live in a high-rise building, you may not have time to go to the lowest floor so pick a second place such as a hallway in the center of the building. In any case, make sure this location is clutter free.
  - Conduct planned and surprise tornado drills. This will help everyone remember what to do if and when a tornado is approaching.
- Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit
  - first aid kit and basic medications
  - battery-powered flashlight and radio
  - extra batteries
  - canned food and a can opener
  - bottled water
  - work gloves and sturdy shoes
  - written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities
- Understand Tornado Watches and Warnings

Tornado watches and warnings are issued by your county.

  - A tornado WATCH indicates the possibility of a tornado in your area.
  - A tornado WARNING occurs when a tornado has been spotted and may be headed towards you. You should immediately get to safety.
- Stay Tuned for Storm Information
  - Listen to your local TV and radio stations for up-to-date storm information.

### During a tornado watch:

- Be Alert to Changes in Weather Conditions
  - Flying debris or the sound of an approaching tornado (many compare this to the sound of a freight train) may indicate that a tornado is near.
- Stay Tuned to Local TV and Radio Stations for Further Updates During a Tornado Warning
  - IF YOU ARE INSIDE: Go to your designated meeting place on the lowest level of the building.
  - IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE: Hurry to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building or



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lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

- IF YOU ARE IN A MOBILE HOME: Get out immediately and head for the nearest shelter.
- IF YOU ARE IN A MOTOR VEHICLE: Do not try to outrun the storm - get out of the vehicle and seek shelter in a safe structure or lie down in a low area.

### **After a tornado passes:**

- Inspect Your Home for Damage
- Watch for Fallen Power Lines
- Listen to the Radio for Further Instructions and Information

### **Acknowledgments:**

American Red Cross



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