

How to Survive a Tornado!



Get to Safety

INDOORS

- * Abandon mobile homes — they are not safe even when tied down. Go to a designated shelter.
- * Go to a basement or interior room on the lowest floor (bathroom or closet without windows, under stairs). Get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- * Cover yourself with a mattress or blanket.
- * Put bicycle helmets on kids.
- * Put on sturdy shoes.
- * Put infants in car seats (indoors!)
- * If you have time gather prescription

medications, wallet and keys.
* **DO NOT** open your windows.

OUTDOORS

- * Find a culvert or cave.
- * Find something to hang onto.
- * Lie flat in a ditch.
- * Cover your head.

MOTOR VEHICLES

- * Leave the vehicle for sturdy shelter or drive out of the tornado's path.
- * **DO NOT** hide under overpasses — they provide no shelter.
- * Last resort actions — stay in your vehicle or abandon for a roadside ditch.

Stay Alert and Stay Alive

Tornado Alley is a nickname for an area that has more tornadoes than other parts of the U.S. The area that has the most strong and violent tornadoes includes eastern South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, and eastern Colorado.

The current average lead-time for tornado warnings is 13 minutes. NOAA Research is working to increase tornado warning lead-times much further.

Tornado Watch or Warning

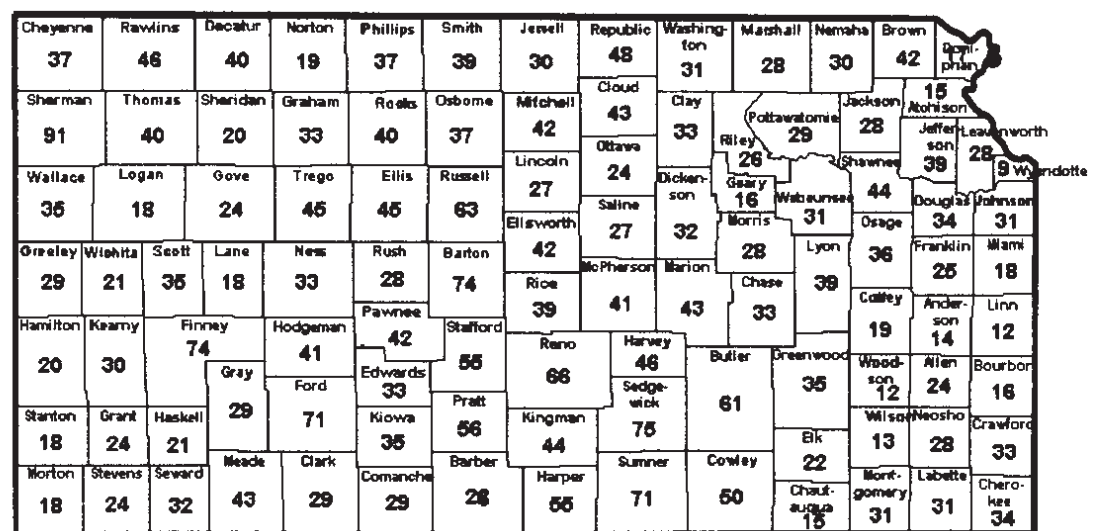
A tornado watch means tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar — time to take cover! Your local National Weather Service office issues tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings.

Tornadoes kill about 60 people each year, mostly from flying debris.

NOAA Weather Radio

Broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. The hearing and visually impaired also can get these warnings by community weather radio with alarm tones to other kinds of attention getting devices like strobe lights, pagers, bed shakers and text printers.

Kansas Tornadoes 1950-2007



Be Prepared!

- * No matter where your shelter is, you should have a few basic supplies there. Since most tornadoes occur at night, you should have spare clothing, underwear and shoes. Sleeping bags and blankets are also good. A portable radio and/or weather radio and a flashlight are a must. Fresh drinking water and food are helpful, as well as a few tools to help you dig out in case of collapse.
- * Once you determine where you shelter is going to be, practice getting there. Practices should be held by the entire family at least once before the tornado season begins and then again during the summer. The more you practice, the faster and more safely you will get to shelter. Since most tornadoes occur at night and usually take out power lines, more than likely your home will be dark. You are less likely to get hurt if you are going someplace you have been before.

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Report damages to Emergency Management, Ryan Murray 785-332-2560 or dispatch 785-332-8880.

Cheyenne County Sirens

Siren Testing in St. Francis and Bird City is the first Wednesday of every month at 11:45.
Take Cover: an oscillating (up and down) tone means that a tornado or tornado activity has been spotted and is headed towards you.
All Clear: a single long tone means it's safe to come out. The NOAA Channel will be able to give you the all clear.
Turn to Radio Stations: KKCI, KLOE and KWGB for those who live in the country, these stations will sound the alert.

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