

TORNADOES . . .

Tornado Safety

What YOU Can Do

Before the Storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school, and when outdoors.
- Have frequent drills.
- Know the county/parish in which you live, and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings.
- Listen to radio and television for information.
- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.

If a Warning is issued or if threatening weather approaches:

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries.



Top: James Campbell

Bottom: Gene Rhoden

It's Up To YOU!

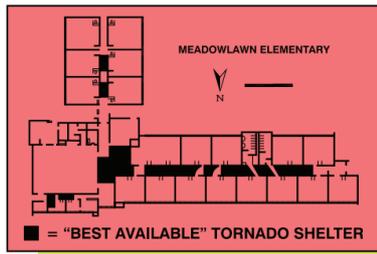
Each year, many people are killed or seriously injured by tornadoes despite advance warning. Some did not hear the warning while others received the warning but did not believe a tornado would actually affect them. The preparedness information in this brochure, combined with timely severe weather watches and warnings, could save your life in the event a tornado threatens your area. After you have received the warning or observed threatening skies, YOU must make the decision to seek shelter before the storm arrives. *It could be the most important decision you will ever make.*

Who's Most At Risk?

- People in automobiles
- The elderly, very young, and the physically or mentally impaired
- People in mobile homes
- People who may not understand the warning due to a language barrier

EVERY School Should Have A Plan!

- Develop a severe weather action plan and have frequent drills.
- Each school should be inspected and tornado shelter areas designated by a registered engineer or architect. Basements offer the best protection. Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor and away from windows.
- Those responsible for activating the plan should monitor weather information from NOAA Weather Radio and local radio/television.
- If the school's alarm system relies on electricity, have a compressed air horn or megaphone to activate the alarm in case of power failure.
- Make special provisions for disabled students and those in portable classrooms.
- Make sure someone knows how to turn off electricity and gas in the event the school is damaged.
- Keep children at school beyond regular hours if threatening weather is expected. Children are safer at school than in a bus or car. Students should not be sent home early if severe weather is approaching.
- Lunches or assemblies in large rooms should be delayed if severe weather is anticipated. Gymnasiums, cafeterias, and auditoriums offer no protection from tornado-strength winds.
- Move students quickly into interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor. Have them assume the tornado protection position (shown at right).



Hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions should develop a similar plan

NOAA Weather Radio is the best means to receive warnings from the national weather service
WHAT TO LISTEN FOR...

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe thunderstorms are occurring.

Look out for...

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train

These dangers often accompany thunderstorms:

- **Flash Floods:** Number one weather killer
- **Lightning:** Kills 75-100 people each year
- **Damaging Straight-line Winds:** Can reach 140 mph
- **Large Hail:** Can reach the size of a grapefruit, causes several hundred million dollars in damage annually to property and crops



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Norton City Sirens

TAKE COVER: An oscillating tone 8 times means take cover - a tornado has been sighted.

ALL CLEAR: Oscillating tone 4 times means all clear, danger is past.

Sirens Blown One Time— means a call for Rural Firemen
Sirens Blown Two Times— means a call for City Firemen

Turn to KQNK Radio FM 106.7 or 1530 AM. For those who live in the country, the radio station will sound the alert. The sirens are an outdoor warning device. If you are indoors you will need a battery operated radio to hear the all clear alerts and further weather information.



Remember

tornadoes occasionally develop in areas in which a severe thunderstorm watch or warning is in effect. Remain alert to signs of an approaching tornado and seek shelter if threatening conditions exist.

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