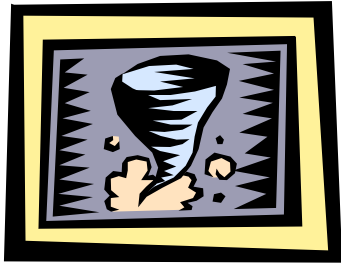


Plan Ahead for Tornadoes



Tornadoes are the most violent storms on Earth. In an average year, about 54 tornadoes strike the state of Oklahoma. The good news is you CAN survive a tornado and greatly reduce your chances of being hurt or killed by following some very basic advice.

Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.

Have disaster supplies on hand:

Flashlight and extra batteries

Portable, battery-operated radio

First aid kit and manual

Emergency food and water

Non-electric can opener

Essential medicines

Cash and credit cards

Sturdy shoes

Have a battery-operated Weather Radio with the warning alarm device to alert you to dangerous storms while you're sleeping or not watching local television. Have multiple ways to get warning information. If you feel threatened, go to your safe place quickly. Don't wait for a warning or a siren

Watches and Warnings

Discuss with family members the difference between a "tornado watch" and a "tornado warning."

A **tornado watch** is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. This is the time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located, and listen to the radio or television for further developments.

A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Mobile Homes

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. When a tornado warning is issued, take shelter in a building with a strong foundation. If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area a safe distance away from the unit.

Make Plans For Your Pets:

Shelters and some hotels/motels may not let you bring your pet. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places and phone numbers.

- In a disaster warning, keep your pets inside and make sure they are wearing collars and identification tags.
- Can't take your pet with you? Put it in a safe, secure room without windows but with enough air, food and water for three days.
- Never leave your pets tied up outside.

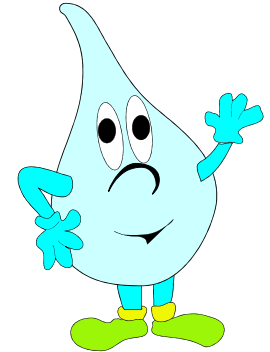
OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



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www.fema.gov

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OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Freddie Floodway wants YOU to know about

TORNADO SAFETY In Oklahoma

Learn these tornado danger signs:

- **An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.**
- **Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.**
- **Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.**

For additional information on how YOU can protect you and your family from a tornado, check out these web sites: www.okflood.org and www.fema.gov

What is a tornado?



- a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud.
- spawned by a thunderstorm or sometimes as a result of a hurricane and produced when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly.

The damage from a tornado is a result of the high wind velocity and wind-blown debris. Tornado season is generally March through August, although tornadoes can occur at any time of year.

They tend to occur in the afternoon and evenings: over 80 percent of all tornadoes strike between noon and midnight.

When a tornado threatens, individuals need to have a safe place to go and time to get there. Even with advances in meteorology, warning times may be short or sometimes not possible. Lives are saved when individuals receive and understand the warning, know what to do, and know the safest place to go.

Attempting to shelter outside in a ditch, under an overpass, in a vehicle or in a mobile home provides little or no protection from even a weak tornado. The best course of action is to plan ahead and avoid being caught in these places during a storm. If you are trapped, try to get to a sturdy structure as quickly as possible and

GET IN—GET DOWN—COVER UP!

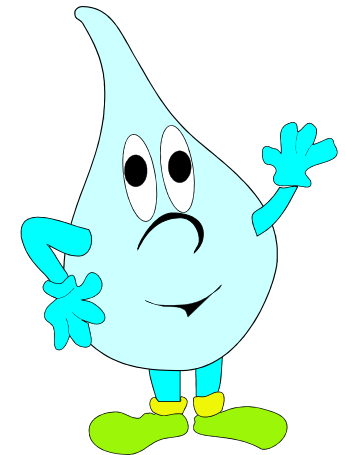
BEFORE TORNADO SEASON STARTS

What should I do?

1. Plan an evacuation route. Contact the local emergency management office of American Red Cross chapter and ask for the community preparedness plan. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.
2. Have disaster supplies on hand. Flashlight and extra batteries, portable battery-operated radio, first aid kit and manual, emergency food and water, non-electric can opener, essential medicines, cash and credit cards, sturdy shoes.
3. Make arrangements for pets. Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons. Contact your local humane society for information on local animal shelters.
4. Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a tornado. Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water. Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
5. Develop an emergency communication plan. In case family members are separated from one another during a tornado (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



**Protect yourself and your family
BE PREPARED**



Know your risk

Plan for a safe place to go

Have time to get there

GET IN

- Get as far inside a strong building as you can.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.
- Stay away from doors and windows.

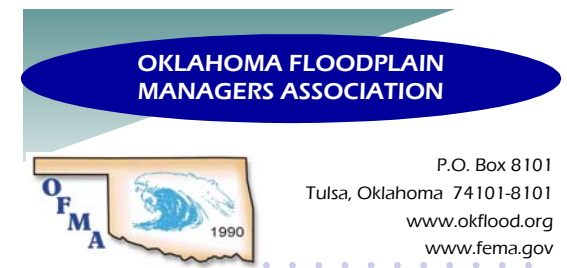
GET DOWN

- Get as low as possible to avoid flying debris.
- Go to the lowest floor possible. Underground is best.

COVER UP

- Use whatever you can find to protect yourself from flying and falling debris.
- Wear a helmet if you have one to protect your head from debris.

GET IN—GET DOWN—COVER UP



**Contact your local Emergency Management Office
or American Red Cross chapter for more
information on TORNADOES**