



TORNADO SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

BEFORE

- ✓ **BE WEATHER-READY:** Check the forecast often to see if a tornado is coming. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- ✓ **SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS:** Know how to get warnings. Media broadcasts and smart phones can alert residents of severe storms capable of producing tornadoes.
- ✓ **CREATE A PLAN:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and shelter spaces. Pick a safe room in your home, such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- ✓ **PRACTICE YOUR PLAN:** Conduct a drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching. Make sure all family members know where to go when a tornado warning is issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.
- ✓ **PREPARE YOUR HOME:** Consider having your safe room reinforced. You can find plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection at [fema.gov/safe-room-resources](https://www.fema.gov/safe-room-resources)
- ✓ **HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for the possibility of tornadoes. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt.

DURING

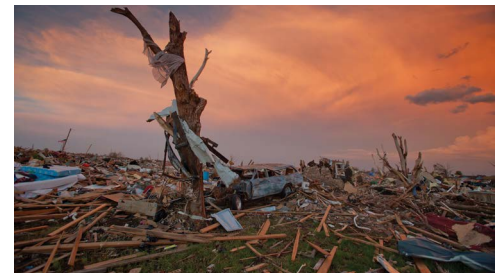
- ✓ **STAY WEATHER-READY:** Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about tornado watches and warnings.
- ✓ **AT YOUR HOUSE:** If you are in a tornado warning area, go to your basement, safe room or an interior room away from windows. Don't forget pets if time allows.
- ✓ **AT YOUR WORKPLACE OR SCHOOL:** Follow your tornado drill and proceed to your tornado shelter quickly and calmly. Stay away from windows and do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums or auditoriums.
- ✓ **OUTSIDE:** Seek shelter inside a sturdy building immediately if a tornado is approaching. Sheds and storage facilities are NOT safe.
- ✓ **IN A VEHICLE:** Being in a vehicle during a tornado is NOT safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to a safe shelter, either get down in your car and cover your head, or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low lying area such as a ditch or ravine.



If you don't have a tornado shelter, stay in an inside room or hallway and cover your head. Photo: NOAA

AFTER

- ✓ **STAY INFORMED:** Keep listening to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for updates about more tornado watches and warnings that may be coming. The next round of thunderstorms may bring more tornadoes.
- ✓ **CONTACT YOUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES:** Let your family and close friends know you are okay so they can help spread the word. Send text messages or posts updates on social media. These posts are more reliable forms of communication than phone calls.
- ✓ **ASSESS THE DAMAGE:** After the tornado threat has ended, check for property damage. When walking through storm damage, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes. Contact utilities if you see power lines down and stay away from them. Stay out of damaged buildings. Be aware of insurance scammers.
- ✓ **HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR:** If you see someone injured, call 911. Then, if you are trained, provide first aid until emergency responders arrive.



After a tornado, watch out dangerous debris such as sharp metal, glass or downed power lines. Photo: NOAA