



# Tornado Safety Checklist

Tornadoes are extremely violent. They can destroy structures, uproot trees, and hurl objects through the air. While tornadoes are more common in the Plains States, they can occur anywhere.



## ✓ During a Tornado

- Seek shelter in a basement or sturdy building.
- Stay away from bridges and overpasses.
- If strong winds and flying debris occur while driving, pull over and park, keeping your seat belt on and engine running. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands and a blanket.

## ✓ After a Tornado

- Let friends and family know you are safe.
- If you have been evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe for you to do so.
- Continue listening to the local news and radio for updated information.
- Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to people in need until emergency responders arrive.

## ✓ Before a Tornado

- Discuss Tornadoes and your plan of action with family and children ahead of time. This will reduce fear at the time of event, especially for younger children.
- Listen to local area radio or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Don't wait until you see the tornado to act!
- Move to an underground shelter, basement or safe room. If none are available, go to a small, windowless room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Find local emergency shelter and know best routes to get there.

TORNADO STRENGTH INDEX ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE					
WEAK	MODERATE	INTENSE	SEVERE	DEVASTATING	CATASTROPHIC
65-85 MPH	86-110 MPH	111-135 MPH	136-165 MPH	166-200 MPH	200+ MPH
MINOR DAMAGE	ROOF DAMAGE	HOME DAMAGED	BUILDINGS LOST	TRAINS TOSSED	TOWN LEVELLED
EF-0	EF-1	EF-2	EF-3	EF-4	EF-5

### ***KNOW the difference!***

- A **tornado WATCH** means tornado is possible.
- A **tornado WARNING** means a tornado is already occurring or will occur soon.  
**GO TO YOUR SAFE PLACE IMMEDIATELY.**



## Tornado Safety Tips:

- Identify a safe place in your home where family and pets can gather during a tornado, such as a basement or storm cellar.
- In a high-rise building, pick a hallway in the center of the building. You may not have enough time to get to the lowest floor.
- In a mobile home, choose a safe place in a nearby sturdy building. No mobile home is safe in a tornado.