

Where to go in the Event of a Tornado and Safety Tips

A **tornado watch** means that tornadoes, high winds, and hail are possible in the watch area.

When a watch is issued in our area, keep abreast of the latest information by monitoring television, radio, or weather internet sites.

Tornado warnings mean that a tornado has been spotted, or that radar has indicated that one exists. When a warning is issued in your area:

- If you are home, the best place to go is your basement or cellar. For homes without a basement or cellar, go to the lowest floor and take shelter in an interior room or under a stairwell in the center of your home, away from windows. Protect your head – if you have a bicycle helmet, use it! If you don't, use pillows or blankets to protect your head and body.
- If you are caught outdoors, try to find a building with a basement, a cellar, a shelter or sturdy building. If you can't do this, stay in your vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to a shelter. If flying debris hits your vehicle, it is best to pull over and park, but do not get out of your vehicle. Do not seek shelter under bridges or overpasses, because these offer little protection. Put your head down below the windows and cover yourself with a blanket or pillows.
- In schools, office buildings, or nursing homes, go to an interior room or hallway away from windows. Crouch down and cover your head. Do not use elevators, because you could be trapped if power is lost. Stairwells without windows also are good places to take shelter.
- In a shopping mall, church or large buildings, move to an interior room such as a bathroom or a storage room. Stay away from windows.
- If you are in a mobile home, leave immediately and seek shelter in a sturdy building or shelter. Mobile homes offer no protection from a tornado.

Tornado Safety Tips

- If you have time, close blinds and curtains to help keep glass from flying into your house.
- Keep an eye out for fast moving clouds, especially rotating cloud formations. Often, tornadoes drop down vertically and lift straight back up, so you will not always observe them coming toward you.
- Stay safe. Don't do anything stupid just because you want a cool video or picture.
- Stay calm.
- Watch the weather forecast until they say the tornado is over. After that, get out of your shelter carefully and be cautious of hazards.
- If you need to, bring pillows or cushions into your safe room.
- Stay away from windows.
- Inform your children about tornadoes, so they will know some of the signs, and will stay alert.
- Never go outside during a tornado to witness or calculate the distance of the tornado from your current location. Doing this may put yourself and/or others in serious danger.

For further information, please contact Cathy Addison
Municipal Deputy Clerk/Emergency Management Coordinator
519-793-3522 x 236 or cathya.nbp@amtelecom.net