

# HOW TO STAY SAFE

## WHEN A TORNADO THREATENS

### Prepare NOW

### Survive DURING

### Be Safe AFTER

**Know your area's tornado risk.** In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.

**Know the signs of a tornado**, including a rotating funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar—similar to a freight train.

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, become familiar with the warning tone.

**Pay attention to weather reports.** Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.

**Identify and practice going to a safe shelter** for high winds, such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level.

**Consider constructing a safe room** that meets FEMA or ICC 500 standards.

**Immediately go to a safe location** that you identified.

**Take additional cover** by shielding your head and neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around you.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio**, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

**Do not try to outrun a tornado** in a vehicle.

**If you are in a car or outdoors** and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.

**Keep listening to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio**, and local authorities for updated information.

**If you are trapped, cover your mouth** with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.

**Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.**

**Do not enter damaged buildings** until you are told that they are safe.

**Save your phone calls for emergencies.** Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.

**Be careful during clean-up.** Wear thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves.

### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [ready.gov](https://ready.gov) and search for **tornado**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **tornado**. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.

