

What should I do to prepare for a tornado?	What should I do if a tornado is threatening?	What do I do after a tornado?
<p>_ During any storm, listen to local news or a NOAAWeather Radio to stay informed about watches and warnings.</p> <p>_ Know your community's warning system. Communities have different ways of warning residents about tornados, with many having sirens intended for outdoor warning purposes.</p> <p>_ Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.</p> <p>_ Practice periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.</p> <p>_ Consider having your safe room reinforced. Plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection can be found on the FEMA Web site at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/rms/rmsp453.shtm.</p> <p>_ Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees.</p> <p>_ Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.</p> <p>_ Watch for tornado danger signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark, often greenish clouds—a phenomenon caused by hail • Wall cloud—an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm • Cloud of debris • Large hail • Funnel cloud—a visible rotating extension of the cloud base • Roaring noise 	<p>_ The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement or safe room.</p> <p>_ If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.</p> <p>• Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes or other severe winds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not seek shelter in a hallway or bathroom of a mobile home. • If you have access to a sturdy shelter or a vehicle, abandon your mobile home immediately. • Go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately, using your seat belt if driving. • Do not wait until you see the tornado. <p>_ If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. • If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible. • If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. • Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances. 	<p>_ Continue listening to local news or a NOAAWeather Radio for updated information and instructions.</p> <p>_ If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.</p> <p>_ Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes when examining your walls, doors, staircases and windows for damage.</p> <p>_ Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately.</p> <p>_ Stay out of damaged buildings.</p> <p>_ Use battery-powered flashlights when examining buildings—do NOT use candles.</p> <p>_ If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out of the building quickly and call the gas company or fire department.</p> <p>_ Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims. Report damage to local emergency management.</p> <p>_ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.</p> <p>_ Keep all of your animals under your direct control.</p> <p>_ Clean up spilled medications, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids that could become a fire hazard.</p> <p>_ Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to persons in need until emergency responders arrive.</p>