

# Tornado Safety



If you have any questions or comments about the University's Tornado Safety Program, contact Environmental Health & Safety at **575-5448**, or e-mail Wayne Brashear at [wbrashe@uark.edu](mailto:wbrashe@uark.edu).

## **Tornado Watch:**

A tornado watch is issued when tornados are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

## **Tornado Warning:**

A tornado warning means a tornado was spotted or is likely in your area. Seek shelter immediately!

## **Tornados are not the only danger associated with thunderstorms. Other hazards which often accompany thunderstorms are:**

- Flash floods-- the number one weather killer
- Lightning
- Damaging straight-line winds, which can reach 140 mph
- Large hail-- it can be as large as a grapefruit. Hail is responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars of damage every year

## **Actions to take in case of a **TORNADO WARNING****

### **BEFORE**

- Know where your designated shelter area is located. Make sure that all family members know where to go in the event of a tornado warning.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit (see below).
- Designate an out-of-state contact person and have all family members memorize the phone number.

- Have one or two designated areas for your family members to go if you become separated during the storm.
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## **DURING**

### **If you are at home:**

- Go immediately to the basement or storm shelter. If your house does not have either of these, go to an inner hallway or small room without windows on the lowest floor of the building, such as a closet or bathroom.
- Stay away from windows!
- Stay in the center of the room, corners are more likely to be hit by debris. If possible, try to get under a heavy piece of furniture such as a workbench, heavy table or stairs. If in a bathroom, get in the bath tub and cover yourself with a mattress.
- Use your arms to cover your head and neck.
- If you live in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere.

### **If you are at work or school:**

- Go immediately to your designated shelter area. These should be in the basement or on the lowest level.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, large cafeterias or shopping malls.
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

### **If you are outside:**

- If possible, seek shelter inside a building.
- If shelter is not available, or there is insufficient time to get indoors, lie flat in a ditch or low lying area or crouch near a strong building.
- Use your arms to cover your head and neck.

### **If you are in a car or other vehicle:**

- Never try to out drive a tornado. Tornadoes can shift direction quickly.
- Seek shelter in a building or lie flat in a ditch or low lying area. Cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Remember, it is easier for a tornado to pick up a car or truck than a person lying flat in a ditch.

## **AFTER**

- Turn on a radio or TV for latest emergency information.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies.

- Be alert for chemical spills, downed electrical wires or gas leaks.
- Take pictures of the damage to your property for insurance purposes.
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### **Disaster Supply Kit**

- Flashlight with spare batteries.
- A portable, battery operated radio and spare batteries.
- First aid kit with any medications family members need.
- Emergency food and water. At least three days worth of supplies for each family member. There should be one gallon of water per person, per day.
- Manual can opener.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Sturdy shoes and one change of clothes per person.
- Candles and matches.
- All items should be packed in easy to carry containers such as back packs or plastic trash cans with handles. Store your supplies in your shelter area.