

Have you ever sat down with your family to discuss and plan what you would do in case of an immediate weather threat? If you haven't, now would be an excellent time to sit down with your family and devise a plan. Finding the time to do this can be difficult, but taking the 15 minutes to develop and practice a plan could save the lives of ones you love. Please remember these tips when planning and carrying out your actions.

Tornado Safety Tips

Before the storm:

- Develop a plan of action
- Have frequent drills
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone
- Listen to radio and television for information
- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to forecasts

In Homes or Small Buildings:

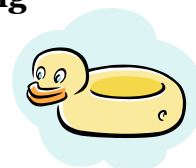
Go to the basement or to an interior room on the lowest floor (e.g. closet or bathroom). Upper floors are unsafe. If there is no time to descend, go to a closet, a small room with strong walls, or an inside hallway. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris.

In Schools, Hospitals, Factories, or Shopping Centers:

Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide span roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses. Crouch down and cover your head. Don't take shelter in halls that open to the south or the west. Centrally-located stairwells are another good shelter.

If a warning is issued or threatening weather approaches:

- Always remember **"DUCK"**
- Stay away from windows
- Get out of automobiles and get into a sturdy structure or ditch.



- Or buckle your seat belt and get below window level of your vehicle.

In High-Rise Buildings:

Go to interior small rooms or halls. Stay away from exterior walls or areas with glass.

In Mobile Homes:

ABANDON THEM IMMEDIATELY!!!

Most deaths occur in cars or mobile homes. If you are in either of these locations when severe weather approaches, leave them immediately and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. Determine your shelter ahead of time so you don't have to think about it when weather strikes.

If No Suitable Structure is Nearby:

Lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head. Be alert for flash floods.

"DUCK"
Down to the lowest level
Under something sturdy
Cover your head
Keep in the shelter until
the storm has passed

Tornadoes and Overpass Safety

Many people mistakenly think that a highway overpass provides safety from a tornado. In reality, an overpass may be one of the worst places to seek shelter from a tornado. Seeking shelter under an overpass puts you at greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris from the powerful tornadic winds.

Tornadic winds can make the most benign item a dangerous missile. In addition to the debris that can injure you, the winds under an overpass are channeled and could easily blow you or carry you out from under the overpass and throw you 100s of yards.

As a last resort, lie flat in a ditch, ravine or below grade culvert to protect yourself from flying debris. If no ditch is available, you may remain in your vehicle, put on your seatbelt, lower yourself below window level, and cover your head with your hands or a blanket.

Lightning Safety

- Watch for developing thunderstorms and be ready to act when thunder is heard.
- Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from an area where it is raining. That's about the distance you can hear thunder.

If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter IMMEDIATELY!

- Outdoor Activities: Minimize the risk of being struck by moving indoors or to vehicles at the first roar of thunder.
- Inside Activities: Things to avoid
 - Corded phones
 - Computers
 - Other electrical equipment
 - Indoor/Outdoor pools
 - Tubs and showers and other things connected to metal plumbing
- Wait 30 minutes after the last roar of thunder before going outside again.
- Help a Lightning Victim: Call 911 and get help immediately. You are in no danger when helping a lightning victim. The charge will not affect you.

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!
See a Flash, Dash Inside!**

Flood Safety

- Floods, especially Flash Floods, kill more people each year than any other weather phenomenon.
- As little as 6 inches of fast moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- As little as 18-24 inches of water is enough to float a car and carry it away.
- If you see a road barrier across a flooded roadway...

TURN AROUND. DON'T DROWN!

- Tune to the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for all flood and any other weather related information.
- Leave areas subject to flooding, such as dips, low spots, and underpasses.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing streams, you don't know how deep the water could be.
- Never drive through flooded roadways.
- If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Report any flooding to your local authorities or to the National Weather Service.

Turn Around. Don't Drown!