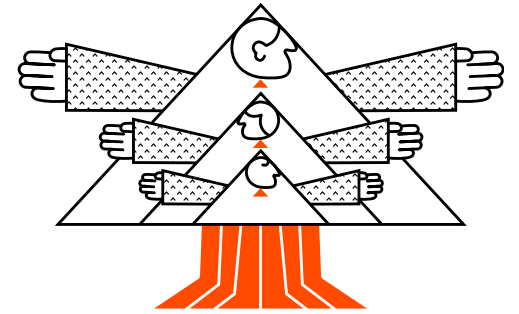


TORNADO

A tornado (sometimes called twisters) is a rapidly spinning tube of air that touches both the ground and a cloud above.



1 PREPARE

- Conduct tornado drills at least once a year, especially at the beginning of tornado season. Designate an area of your home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.
- Be alert to weather conditions. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or tune in to a local television station for the latest information.
- Discuss with your family the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning.

2 DURING

If at home:

- Go at once to a windowless, interior room, storm cellar, basement, or the lowest level of the building.
- If there is no basement, to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Get away from the windows
- Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris.

If in a car:

- You should never try to out-drive a tornado in a vehicle. Tornadoes often change direction quickly and can lift up a car and toss it through the air.
- Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be aware of the potential for flooding and flying debris.

Fast Facts



Tornado winds can reach 250 miles an hour and can clear a pathway a mile wide and over 50 miles long.



Every U.S. state has experienced twisters, but Texas holds the record: an annual average of 120.