

Tornado

Plan for a Tornado - Individual & Family

- Learn about your tornado risk. Tornadoes accompany a thunderstorm, especially in the months of March and April.
- Watch for tornado danger signs. Tornadoes may happen so quickly that warnings cannot be issued far in advance. Pay attention to weather clues that may warn you of imminent danger. The usual clues of an impending tornado are:



1. **Dark, often greenish sky:** Sometimes one or more of the clouds turns greenish (a phenomenon caused by hail) indicating that a tornado may develop.
 2. **Wall cloud:** An isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm. The wall cloud is particularly suspect if it is rotating.
 3. **Large hail:** Tornadoes are spawned from powerful thunderstorms and the most powerful thunderstorms produce large hail. Tornadoes frequently emerge from near the hail-producing portion of the storm.
 4. **Cloud of debris:** An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.
 5. **Funnel cloud:** A visible rotating extension of the cloud base is a sign that a tornado may develop.
 6. **Roaring noise:** The high winds of a tornado can cause a roar that is often compared with the sound of a freight train.
 7. Tornadoes may occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm and be quite visible. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado. They may also be embedded in rain and not visible at all.
- Pick a safe place in your home/shelter (both in towns and villages) where family members can gather during a tornado. Ensure that all the family members know the place.
 - If you are living in kutchha house in a village or slum, identify the nearest pucca house, where you can take shelter.
 - The safest place to be is as low to the ground as possible and away from all windows. Consider an interior hallway or room on the lowest floor. Putting as many walls as you can between you and the outside wall provide additional protection. Less than 2 percent of all tornadoes are powerful enough to completely destroy a sturdy building. It would be better if the identified shelter does not have windows or glass doors. If there are windows latch those tightly. If the windows are weak, use pieces of wood and fix them with them nails.
 - Your tornado safe place should be reinforced. Additional reinforcement will add

more protection from the damaging effects of tornado winds.

- If you are in a high-rise building, pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building. You may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Central hallways are usually the most structurally reinforced part of a building.
- Discuss within your community how you would be warned of an approaching tornado. Communities have different ways of providing warnings. Many areas have sirens, while others would use conches, bells and gongs. Be alert about the warnings while you are indoors. Learn about your community's warning system.
- Wherever you are, if you hear or see a tornado coming, take cover right away. Tornadoes can move quickly, blowing objects at very high speeds, even if they are some distance away. Protect yourself from flying debris by taking cover immediately.
- Get under something sturdy, such as a heavy table, hold on and stay there until the danger has passed. Being under something heavy will help protect you from falling objects. If tornado wind enters the room and the object moves, holding on with one hand will help you move with it, and keeping yourself protected.
- Use your other arm and hand to protect your head and neck from falling or flying objects. Your head and neck are more easily injured than other parts of your body. Protect them as much as you can.
- If there is no building nearby, lie flat in a low spot. Use your arms and hands to protect your head. Tornadoes cause a lot of debris to be blown at very high speeds, and this debris can hurt you. Dangerous flying debris can be blown under highway overpasses and bridges, or weaker overpasses and bridges could be destroyed. You will be safer lying flat in a low-lying area where wind and debris will blow above you. Tornadoes come from severe thunderstorms, which can produce a lot of rain. If you see quickly rising water or floodwater coming towards you, move to another spot.

What to Do during a Tornado Warning or a Thunderstorm

- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Tornadoes accompany severe thunderstorms and weather conditions can change rapidly. Large hail, blowing debris, or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say approaching tornadoes sound like a goods train.
- Listen to local radio station or television for updated information. Have a battery set transistor in case the electricity goes out.
- If you are inside, go to your safe place to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. Stay away from places with electric, telephone wires and trees. Tornadoes can change direction, intensity, and speed very quickly.
- If you are outside in a car/motorbike/ cycle, go immediately into a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be. Tornado winds can blow large objects, including cars hundreds of feet away. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift up a car or truck and toss it through the air. Never try to out-drive a tornado.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, large restaurants or cafeterias, large hallways, or markets. Wide-span roofs are frequently damaged or destroyed in tornado winds, providing less protection and more risk of injury, than roofs over smaller rooms.

What to Do After a Tornado

- Continue listening the local radio or television stations for updated information and instructions. Access may be limited to some parts of the community, or roads may be blocked.
 - Help a neighbor who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people and people with disabilities. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance.
 - Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
 - Watch out for fallen power lines or gas leaks and report them to the local electric department immediately. Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.
 - Stay out of damaged buildings. Tornadoes can cause great damage, creating further hazards. If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe.
 - When entering damaged buildings, use extreme caution. Moving through debris presents further hazards. Carefully watch every step you take.
 - Wear sturdy shoes or chappals. The most common injury following a disaster is by cutting your feet.
 - Use torchlight when examining buildings. Battery-powered lighting is the safest and easiest, preventing fire hazard for the user, occupants, and building.
 - Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases, and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing. Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.
 - Look for fire hazards. There may be broken or leaking gas lines, or damage to electrical systems. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids immediately. Fire is the most frequent hazard following other disasters.
 - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbour's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional from the gas company must turn it back on.
 - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken wires, or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being reused.
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