



# TORNADOES

The Weather Channel

kids!

Tornadoes must always be taken seriously. One of nature's most violent storms - tornadoes are extremely dangerous and sometimes deadly. Tornadoes come from the most powerful thunderstorms and appear as rotating, funnel-shaped clouds. Tornado winds can reach 300 miles per hour. They cause extreme damage when they touch down on the ground. They can damage an area one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk, but states in "Tornado Alley" have the highest risk. Tornadoes can form any time of the year, but tornado season normally runs from March to August. The ability to predict tornadoes is limited. Usually a community will have at least a few minutes warning. The most important thing to do is TAKE SHELTER when a tornado is nearby.



## What to do

### What to Do If There Is A Tornado Warning In a Frame Home:

Seek shelter with your parents in the lowest level of your home. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway, a smaller inner room or a closet. Keep away from all windows.

Radios and/or cell phones are an excellent way to get weather updates. Use The Weather Channel, weather.com or your local TV and radio station to follow the tornado.

Keep your Family Disaster Kit with you at all times.

Keep your pet on a leash or in a carrier to make them feel safe and unable to run away.

Remind your parents a mattress can be used for protection. Stand against the wall with a mattress to cushion you but don't put a mattress on top of you because you could suffocate or be pinned down. Cover your head and eyes with a blanket to protect against flying debris and broken glass.

Be aware that multiple tornadoes can emerge from the same storm.

Do not go outside until officials say it is safe.

### In a Mobile home:

Leave immediately and take shelter elsewhere; take your Family Disaster Kit with you.

### Outside:

Try to get inside somewhere and go to a small, protected space with no windows.

If you can't get inside, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area. Cover your head and neck with your arms or a piece of clothing.

### In a car:

Parents should drive away from the tornado if at all possible. If it is not possible and the tornado is bearing down on you get out of the car and into a sturdy building or ditch. Get away from the car.

### In a school, workplace or other building:

Evacuate portable classrooms.

Move students into interior hallways, small interior rooms, or stairways on the lowest level.

Avoid using the gym, auditoriums or other large, open-space areas.

### Alerts:

**Tornado Watch** -- Tornadoes are possible. Stay tuned to the radio or television news.

**Tornado Warning** -- A tornado has been sighted. Take shelter immediately!

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