

# Tornado Preparedness and Awareness



**Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning.** Taking precautions in advance of the storms, such as developing an emergency plan, learning the warning signs, and monitoring tornado watches and warnings, can help you stay safe if a tornado occurs in your area.

## Emergency plans should include details on:

- Suitable places to take shelter
- Policies to ensure all personnel are accounted for
- Procedures for addressing any hazardous materials that are on-site

*It is also recommended that individuals develop action plans for their families.*

PLAN, PREPARE, MONITOR, ACT	
WATCH	WARNING
<b>REMAIN ALERT!</b>	<b>TAKE ACTION!</b>
SEVERE STORMS OR TORNADOES ARE POSSIBLE	SEVERE STORMS OR TORNADOES ARE EXPECTED OR ARE OCCURRING
CONTINUE YOUR NORMAL ROUTINE MONITOR CONDITIONS	SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH/WARNING TORNADO WATCH/WARNING/EMERGENCY

## Identify Shelter Locations

An underground area, such as a basement or storm cellar, provides the best protection from a tornado. If an underground shelter is unavailable, consider the following:

- Seek a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible
- Stay away from doors, windows, and outside walls
- Stay in the center of the room, and avoid corners because they attract debris
- Rooms constructed with reinforced concrete, brick or block with no windows and a heavy concrete floor or roof system overhead
- Avoid auditoriums, cafeterias and gymnasiums that have flat, wide-span roofs.

***If possible, communicate with your company and/or family prior to and after the event.***

For more information about tornado preparedness and response visit <https://www.osha.gov/tornado>

## If Outdoors

Seek shelter in a basement or a sturdy building. If one is not within walking distance, try to drive in a vehicle, using a seat belt, to the nearest shelter.

If in the mine seek shelter in equipment, surge tunnel, or any other areas that have been identified as shelter locations.

If flying debris is encountered while in a vehicle, there are two options:

- Stay in the vehicle with the seat belt on, keeping your head below the windows and covering it with your hands or a blanket,
- If there is an area which is noticeable lower than the roadway, lie in that area and cover your head with your hands.