

# Tornado Preparedness

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## Objectives

By the end of the lesson, participants will be able to:

1. List at least 2 steps to take during a tornado
2. Define a tornado watch and a tornado warning.

# Zoom Poll

Answer the poll that pops up on your screen:

Has anyone here ever experienced a  
tornado before?

What do you know about tornados?

Feel free to raise your hand,  
unmute yourself and talk,  
or type in the chat.

# Important Definitions

**Tornado:** A column of air that touches the ground and is usually found at the base of a thunderstorm. Tornadoes are considered the most violent storm. Some are clearly visible, and others may be hidden in rain and/or low hanging clouds.

**Tornado Alley:** An area in the southern plains of central United States that experiences a constant high frequency of tornadoes every year. The tornadoes that occur in this region typically occur in the late spring and early fall.

# Important Definitions

The CDC says “A tornado watch is issued when weather conditions favor the formation of tornadoes, for example, during a severe thunderstorm”.

The CDC says “A tornado warning is issued when a tornado funnel is sighted or indicated by weather radar. You should take shelter immediately”.

# The Dangers of Being in a Tornado

The dangers of being in a tornado include hazards from high winds and the risk of being struck by flying or falling objects. The damage left behind after a tornado also poses additional risk of injury.

# Get Weather Ready --Tornado Video





# Group Activity (In Breakout Rooms)

## Act Fast, Act Now!

With your group, read the scenarios below. Respond below each scenario with how you think you should react in the situation. Be prepared to share your responses with the entire class.

It 9 o'clock on a Thursday evening, you are in your home with your family watching TV during a thunderstorm. All of a sudden, the TV program is interrupted by a tornado warning that reads "The national Weather Service has issued a **Tornado warning** for your county at 9:04 PM. The tornado warning is effective until 10:00 PM. Seek shelter immediately. Check local media." ACT FAST, ACT NOW! What do you do?

1. Respond Here:

You're a teacher at an elementary school in Dallas, Texas. It is a Friday afternoon and the students are gone early due to a half day. You're still at school for teacher in service time. You are sitting at your desk preparing lesson plans for the next week. All of a sudden the main office comes on the loud speaker and announces that there is a **tornado warning** in effect immediately and says to seek shelter and protection in the building. ACT FAST, ACT NOW! What should you do?

2. Respond Here:

You live in a **mobile home** right outside of downtown Dallas, Texas. You are home cleaning up around the house while listening to the radio. The radio broadcaster comes on and announces that there is a storm headed towards Dallas and a **tornado watch** is in effect and that residents of the area should prepare immediately. ACT FAST, ACT NOW! What should you do to prepare?

3. Respond Here:

# Prevent Injury and Damage from a Tornado

First and most importantly, take shelter no matter where you are.

At home: avoid windows, go to basement if possible, if not, go to a room on the lower floor with no windows

In a mobile home: Do not stay in a mobile home during a tornado as they can easily turn over with strong winds. Try to plan ahead if you live in a mobile home so you have a building or a lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert

# Prevent Injury and Damage from a Tornado

On the road: This is one of the worst places to be during a tornado, but it is important to not try to outrun the tornado. If you see a tornado coming, stop your car and do NOT get under it.

Outdoors: if you are stuck outside during a tornado, avoid an area with a lot of trees, and protect your head with your hands

Office buildings, schools, hospitals, churches: move away from windows, go to the innermost part of the buildings, do not use elevators, and protect your head.

# Prevent Injury and Damage from a Tornado

→ Stay informed on local storm watches or warnings, like a tornado watch or warning.

→ Develop a tornado emergency plan and make sure everyone knows how to exit rooms, take shelter, and where the first aid kit and fire extinguisher are.

→ Practice your emergency plan, especially with children.

→ Write down a list of important information. This includes important telephone numbers and addresses, medical information, etc.

# Prevent Injury and Damage from a Tornado

→ Store important documents safely. Important documents include birth certificates, social security cards, wills, etc.

→ Reduce household hazards

→ Assemble a first aid kit with basic first aid supplies like bandages, gauze, tape, cotton swabs, ointments, alcohol swabs, eye drops, soap and water, and any prescription medications.

# Post Tornado Safety

- Stay away from damaged power lines and buildings
- AVOID flooded areas
  - It only takes a few inches of water for a car to be swept away
- DO NOT use matches or lighters
  - There could be gas leaks anywhere after a tornado, lighting matches or a lighter may start a fire

# Brainstorm Activity

On your own, take a few minutes to brainstorm. Be prepared to share.

What are some of the relief and recovery resources that are needed after a tornado hits your areas?

# Guest Speaker

If you are able to have a local expert on resources in the area (a mayor or representative from a local relief or recovery resource) insert their introduction here.



# Tornado Relief and Recovery Resources

Insert local tornado relief and recovery resources here

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Insert local tornado relief and recovery resources here

# Post- Workshop Assessment

Complete the post-workshop assessment that was sent via email and through the chat.

# Conclusion

- Remember how to prevent injury and damage:
  - At home
  - In a mobile home
  - In a car
  - In a building
- Remember important tornado terminology, like tornado watch and tornado warning.
- Develop an emergency plan and store important documents safely.
- Practice your emergency plan.
- Stay informed.
- Know what resources are available in your area.

Any Questions?