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TORNADOES

While tornadoes commonly take place in the Midwest during the spring and summer, they have been reported in every state and they can happen at any time. A tornado may contain 200 mile an hour swirling winds and has the ability to destroy nearly everything in its path.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE

Create a Family Emergency Plan

- Designate a place where the entire family should gather if a tornado is headed your way. The best place is usually the basement. If there is no basement, choose a center hallway, a bathroom or a closet on the lowest floor. If you live in a high-rise building, you may not have time to go to the lowest floor so pick a second place such as a hallway in the center of the building. In any case, make sure this location is clutter free.

- Conduct planned and surprise tornado drills. This will help everyone remember what to do if and when a tornado is approaching.

Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit

- first aid kit and basic medications
- battery-powered flashlight and radio
- extra batteries
- canned food and a can opener
- bottled water
- work gloves and sturdy shoes
- written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities

Understand Tornado Watches and Warnings

- Tornado watches and warnings are issued by your county.
- A tornado WATCH indicates the possibility of a tornado in your area.
- A tornado WARNING occurs when a tornado has been spotted and may be headed towards you. You should immediately get to safety.

Stay Tuned for Storm Information

- Listen to your local TV and radio stations for up-to-date storm information.

DURING A TORNADO WATCH

Be Alert to Changes in Weather Conditions

- Flying debris or the sound of an approaching tornado (many compare this to the sound of a freight train) may indicate that a tornado is near.

Stay Tuned to Local TV and Radio Stations for Further Updates During a Tornado Warning

- IF YOU ARE INSIDE: Go to your designated meeting place on the lowest level of the building.

- IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE: Hurry to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- IF YOU ARE IN A MOBILE HOME: Get out immediately and head for the nearest shelter.
- IF YOU ARE IN A MOTOR VEHICLE: Do not try to outrun the storm - get out of the vehicle and seek shelter in a safe structure or lie down in a low area.

AFTER A TORNADO PASSES

- § Inspect Your Home for Damage
- § Watch for Fallen Power Lines
- § Listen to the Radio for Further Instructions and Information

Acknowledgments:

American Red Cross



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