



Tornados

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 200 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Planning and preparing ahead is essential.

Be Prepared:

- Build an emergency supply kit (Grab 'n Go Bag) for your family and your pet(s) and make a family communication plan. (See "Grab 'n Go Bag" document for list of supplies).
- Designate a 'safe room' in your home.
- Become familiar with the location of 'safe areas' signs within Sun City facilities. This will usually be in a hallway or restroom area, away from windows.
- Consider purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio that will provide emergency alerts. Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) can help program your radio.
- Sign up for your local community's warning system (e.g. WarnCentralTexas.org, and weather-related apps).
- Become familiar with the outdoor warning sirens and seek shelter if you are outside (sirens are not intended to be heard inside a building).
- Be aware of changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.
- Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud; an approaching cloud of debris; or a loud roar—similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.
- A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

During a Tornado

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, or commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.
- In any emergency, always listen and follow the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- If you are at home, go to a pre-designated area such as your 'safe room'.

- Go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway or bathroom) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Avoid areas of a building where air conditioners or other heavy equipment is located overhead. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Wear a helmet (e.g. bike, construction helmet), if available, to protect your head.
- Pillows, blankets, mattress, cushions from couch or chairs, and heavy furniture such as a sturdy table can be used for additional protection.
- In a public building go to the lowest floor or hallway away from windows and doors.
- Don't go outdoors until it is safe to do so.
- Save your phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- If you are in a vehicle, do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.

- If you are in a vehicle or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible. Otherwise, lie flat, face-down on low ground as far away from trees and cars as you can and protect your head with your arms.

- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

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