

Tornados

Knowing the signs of an incoming tornado is an important part of staying safe. Look out for:

- Rotating funnel-shaped cloud
- Approaching cloud of debris
- Dark or green-colored sky
- Large, dark, low-lying cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar that sounds like a freight train



It's important to track local conditions. The [FEMA weather app](#) shares real-time weather alerts, locate emergency shelters in your area, and preparation tips. Tune into your local channels, watch your weather app, and listen to the [NOAA Weather Radio](#). In case of a power outage, it's a good idea to invest in a [hand-crank weather radio](#).

Listen for your area coming under a tornado watch or warning.

Tornado Watch – This means that there is a chance of tornados in your area. Keep an eye on conditions and be prepared to take shelter if they worsen.

Tornado Warning – This means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar near you. Take cover immediately.

While there really is no place that will guarantee safety in a tornado, the best recommendations are a storm cellar, a basement, or an interior room towards the center of the building with no windows. Make sure to find a sturdy building to shelter in. It is not recommended that you try to ride it out in a mobile home – the construction is not solid enough to stand up to the wind speed and flying debris.

The most important part is to plan ahead. Check out the [Red Cross Tornado Safety Tips](#) to get some more ideas on how to plan for your safety.

