

Tornado Watch vs. Tornado Warning

Knowing the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning can save your life.

- **TORNADO WATCH** - Conditions are favorable for the development of thunderstorms that will have a strong capability of producing tornadoes.
- **TORNADO WARNING** - A tornado has been spotted by a trained observer or Doppler radar has indicated a developing tornado and you should seek shelter immediately.

If a Tornado Warning is issued for your county here are some steps you can take.

- If you are at home or in a small building move to the basement. A basement provides the safest shelter from a tornado.
- If there is not a basement in the building move to an interior room or hall. The room should be small, such as a bathroom or closet on the lowest level of your house.
- If possible make sure there are no windows in the room to avoid injury from flying glass.
- If you are at a school, hospital, factory, or shopping mall there should be a pre-designated shelter area.
- If there is not, move to an interior hallway on the lowest floor avoiding large windows or glassed areas.
- It is best if you stay away from large rooms like school gyms or dining rooms.
- You should crouch down and protect your head with your hands.
- If you are threatened by a tornado and you are in a high rise building move to center of the building.

History has proven the worst place to get caught in a tornado is a mobile home or car. If a tornado threatens, leave the mobile home or car and seek shelter in a sturdy shelter. If you are in a car and a sturdy shelter can't be reached, leave the car and lie in the nearest ditch, gully or low spot shielding your head with your hands. An automobile provides virtually no protection against the strong winds of a tornado.