

FLASH

cards

Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are the most sudden, unpredictable and violent storms on earth. Knowing how to survive a tornado is crucial, as more than 100 million people in the U.S. are at risk.

Before

- Install a safe room or storm shelter built to FEMA 320 guidelines or the ICC/NSSA 500 standard. For more information, see the Safe Room FLASH card.
- Have a family tornado plan and know where you can take shelter.
- Closely monitor NOAA Weather Radio or visit www.flashweatheralerts.org to download a severe weather alerts app for your iOS or Android device.

During

- Take refuge in a tested and approved storm shelter, safe room or a community shelter labeled as an official tornado shelter. Community shelters may include stores, malls, churches or even airports.
- If no shelter is available:
 - Are you indoors? Go to the lowest floor, to a small, center interior room, under a stairwell or to an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch down as low as possible to the floor, face down and cover your head with your arms. Cover yourself with a blanket, mattress, helmet or other thick covering. Wear footwear with thick soles to your safe location.
 - Are you in a mobile home? Get out. Even if your home is tied down, it is not as safe as a sturdy building. Go to a nearby permanent structure.
 - Are you in a vehicle? Go to a nearby permanent structure. Do not shelter under an overpass, bridge or in a drainage ditch. If you cannot safely exit your vehicle, park it out of traffic lanes. Stay in the vehicle with your seatbelt on. Put your head below the windows and protect it with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion.
 - Are you outdoors? Shelter in a sturdy building. If no shelter is available, lie face down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms.

After

- Keep your family together in a safe location and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Stay away from power lines, downed trees and puddles that could hide live wires.
- Watch your step to avoid sharp objects.
- Stay out of heavily damaged structures, as they may collapse.
- Do not use matches or lighters in case of leaking natural gas or fuel tanks.
- Listen to your radio for information and instructions.

For more information on severe weather safety, visit www.flash.org. For mobile severe weather alerts and mitigation tips, download FLASH Weather Alerts at www.flashweatheralerts.org.

Protect your home in a **FLASH** with the
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes!

www.flash.org ■ toll-free 1-877-221-SAFE