



No other country in the world has more tornadoes than the United States.

In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported resulting in 80 deaths and over 1500 injuries. When it comes to tornadoes, there's no such thing as a "tornado season." Tornadoes strike anywhere, anytime, and you need to **be prepared to act quickly.**

Know the Signs

- * Hail or heavy rain followed by dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift
Tornadoes may be wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen
- * Noticeable change in sky color to greenish-yellow
- * Lowering of the cloud base and persistent rotation
- * Whirling dust or debris under a cloud or a visible funnel cloud
- * Loud, continuous roar/rumble... or well-known "train" sound
- * At night, small bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level, which are power lines being snapped by strong winds

Where is the safest place to take shelter from a tornado...

In my home?

- Get away from windows
- Go to the basement and get under the stairs
- Go to an inside closet/bathroom/hall on the lowest level of the house
- Get under a mattress.
- Protect your head

In my car?

- Get out of a car and inside a sturdy building, if possible
- If outside with no cover, lie flat and cover your head
- **Do NOT** try to outrun a tornado in a car.

In a mobile home?

- Get out and seek sturdy shelter into a safe place.
- Lie in a ditch or get as low as you can and cover your head

If caught outside?

Take shelter in a ditch, culvert, or ravine and cover your head



Watches and Warnings

Learn the terms that are used to identify a tornado.

Tornado Watch: a tornado is possible in your area. You should monitor your weather-alert radios, local radio and TV stations for information.

Tornado Warning: a tornado has been sighted in the area or has been indicated by National Weather Service Doppler radar. When a warning is issued, take cover immediately.

Weather Alerts & Notifications



There are numerous ways to receive instant notification of severe weather events. Visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website: www.vaemergency.gov and register for alerts.