

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

Funnel clouds have been observed on every continent except Antarctica. The United States has significantly more than the rest of the world because of low-lying geography and a climate that breeds strong thunderstorms. With wind speeds up to 320 miles per hour, tornadoes kill about 60 people every year in the United States when uprooted trees and debris turn into deadly missiles.

Tornado signs:

- a. A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.
- b. If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger sign. Hail can be common in some areas, however, and usually has no tornadic activity along with it.
- c. A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- d. Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- e. A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- f. Debris dropping from the sky.
- g. An obvious "funnel-shaped" cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible.

SAFETY TIPS:

1. Determine the best locations for shelter at home, school and work.

The safest location is always a basement, below the deadly wind and projectile objects. If you can't go underground, find a small interior room or hallway on the lowest level of the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows.

2. A tornado warning means a tornado has been "spotted".

3. A tornado watch means weather conditions are "favorable" for tornados to occur

4. Make an inventory of your possessions.

For insurance purposes, videotape or photograph everything you would need to replace in case you lose it all. When you're sure that you've included everything, keep the inventory somewhere away from the premises, such as a safe-deposit box.

5. Know how your community sends its warnings.

If it's a siren, stay inside and take cover. Know where the designated shelters are in the buildings where you spend your time.

6. Stay away from windows.

At 320 miles per hour, shards of glass can be deadly. You can eliminate this risk if you make sure your shelter area is free of windows. If this isn't possible, protect yourself with a heavy blanket or mattress.

7. Vehicles: In a car or truck: Vehicles are [extremely dangerous](#) in a tornado. Get out and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If in the open country, run to low ground away from any cars (which may roll over on you). Lie flat and face-down, protecting the back of your head with your arms.

8. In the open outdoors: If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

WEATHER-RELATED (i.e. TORNADO) SHELTER ZONES

Omwake-Dearborn Chapel – lower level hallway or enclosed room with no windows

Corriher-Linn Black Library – lower level central area away from windows
(Palmer Archives - center of the building)

Shuford Science Building – lower level center hallway

Robertson College Community Center – (Keppel Auditorium – Mezzanine seating area)
(Hedrick Little Theatre – seating area)

Center for the Environment – lower level restrooms and classrooms away from windows

Yellow Brick House (Summit Ave.) – basement

Heath Hill – kitchen area

Heath Hill Lodge – center of the building

McCachren-Epperson Theatre Arts Office – basement

NSSA (Summit Ave.) - Basement and landing area of the stairwell on the first floor

Jann House/Public Safety – basement

Hurley Hall – laundry room in basement

Williams Music Building – basement hallway

Salisbury-Rowan Hall – basement hallway away from windows

Hedrick Administrative Building – 1st floor central hallway and Welcome Center Reception area

Hollifield Hall – central hallway area

Stanback Hall – short hallways with no windows

Barger-Zartman Hall – basement and the long hallway

Hoke Hall – basement computer lab 108/109 and the center offices with no windows

Woodson Hall – basement level long hallway

Johnson Tennis Center – coach's office or restrooms

Ketner Hall – Tom Smith Auditorium, File Room 101/102, the short internal hallways and

Center offices away from windows

Cannon Student Center – Service line area of cafeteria, hallway between Post-Office and Wellness Center, Lower level restrooms, lower level conference room for over-flow, center section of the Proctor Health Center, Administrative Offices hallway for over-flow and SGA room for over-flow

Graham, Purcell and Fuller Residence Halls – basement hallways

Goodman E & W Residence Halls – bottom level ground floor, use stairwells for over-flow

Pine Knot Hall – laundry room in the basement, 1st floor central hallway if needed

Ruth-Richards House – basements

Abernethy Gymnasium & PE Center – lower level center hallway, M & W PE locker rooms, weight room, athletic training room, exercise physiology lab

Newman Park – center of locker room area and restrooms under the bleachers
*(Ideally get to Hayes FH or Abernethy Gym)

Shuford Stadium – under bleachers, *(Ideally get to Hayes FH or Abernethy Gym)

Hayes Field House – team meeting room, conference rooms, kitchen area, athletic training room,
have over-flow to hallways without windows and locker rooms

President's Home – central part of the basement

Cloninger Guest House – basement and the formal dining room if needed

Foil House – lower level central room, upper levels – central hallway

Maintenance & Grounds (Smokestack) – lower level central rooms

Partners In Learning: Administrative Office – center of building and central offices
Building closest to Hayes Field House – central part of each room in the corners
Building closest to goal post – center hallway and rest rooms
Building closest to the woods - central part of each room in the corners