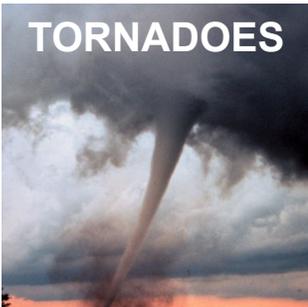


# SELF SUFFICIENCY IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL)

## TORNADOES

### TORNADO FACTS

- Colorado is ranked ninth in the country for number of tornadoes.
- A tornado may be the most violent phenomenon found in nature. Winds can easily exceed 200 mph.
- Colorado residents can expect an average of forty tornadoes every year.
- The June 1990 Limon Tornado caused \$12 million in damages.
- Most tornadoes occur between May and July. The major threat of tornado is in the afternoon or evening hours.
- More than 75% of tornadoes occur between noon and 7 p.m. tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast.

## WHAT TO DO ...

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground capable of producing tremendous damage. It appears as a rotating funnel-shaped cloud, which extends to the ground from the base of a thunderstorm. A tornado spins like a top and may sound like the roaring of an airplane or locomotive. These short-lived storms are the most violent of all atmospheric phenomena, and over a small area, the most destructive.

### IF YOU ARE AT HOME

Go to your basement if you have one. Take cover under the basement stairs or under a sturdy workbench or table. If your home has not basement, take cover in the center part of the house, on the lowest floor in small rooms such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture. Stay away from windows to avoid flying debris.

DO NOT REMAIN IN A TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME IF A TORNADO IS APPROACHING. TAKE COVER SOMEWHERE ELSE.

### IF YOU ARE AT WORK

In a building, go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, or to a designated shelter area. STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.

### IF YOU ARE AT SCHOOL

Follow the instructions of school authorities. The designated shelter is usually the interior hallway on the lowest floor. STAY OUT of structures with wide, free-span roofs, such as auditoriums and gymnasiums.

### IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE IN OPEN COUNTRY

If you can determine the path of a tornado you can move out of its path by driving at a right angle to the path. For example, if a tornado is moving east you can drive south to get away. If you cannot avoid the tornado, get out and away from your vehicle and seek shelter in a ditch or depression but beware of the possibility of rising water. Do NOT seek shelter under an overpass.

## WATCHES VS WARNINGS

A **TORNADO WATCH** means that tornadoes may be possible in or near the "watch" area. Keep your radio or television set tuned to a local station for information and advice from your local government and the National Weather Service.

A **TORNADO WARNING** means that a tornado has actually been sighted, or has been indicated by radar. You must take action to protect yourself from the tornado and the debris caused by the tornado. Your best protection is an underground shelter or a substantial steel-framed or reinforced concrete building. **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY** when a tornado warning has been issued.