

PREPARE A FAMILY TORNADO PLAN

- Discuss your family's plan with your children ... make sure everyone knows where to go in the event of a tornado. Conduct periodic tornado drills.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings. Know where to get weather information and the meaning of watches and warnings.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit for emergencies. Include a first aid kit, battery powered radio and flashlight with extra batteries, canned food and can opener, and bottled water.
- Pick two places to meet after a disaster: a spot outside your home and a place away from your neighborhood (in case you cannot return home). Choose an out-of-state friend to be your "family check-in contact" in case the family gets separated.

Reminder:

Lightning kills more people in Colorado than tornadoes and flooding. In a lightning storm go inside a building, but stay off your phone. A metal-roofed vehicle with windows closed is also a suitable shelter.

AFTER A TORNADO

- Beware of downed power lines.
- Do not tie up telephone lines, unless you have an emergency, then dial 911.
- Stay out of and away from damaged buildings.
- Do not attempt to move seriously injured people, unless further danger is imminent.
- Beware of possibly dangerous chemicals in storm debris.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT TORNADOES

- 1 Most tornadoes in Northeast Colorado occur during May, June and July. Approximately 83% of all tornadoes in Colorado occur during these three months. Forty percent occur between mid-May and mid-June.
- 2 Most tornadoes occur during the late afternoon or evening hours.
- 3 Most Colorado tornadoes are relatively weak and have a short duration. Nevertheless, they can cause fatalities, serious injuries and extensive property damages.
- 4 The most deaths from a single tornado event in Colorado (10 fatalities) occurred on August 10, 1924 in Washington County.
- 5 Weld County has the most frequent occurrence of tornadoes in the state, with 229 reported tornadoes between 1950 and 2004.
- 6 In 1996, 98 tornadoes were reported in Colorado, the highest one-year total in state history. In 1999, 43 tornadoes were reported in the state.
- 7 The reported number of tornadoes in 11 Northeast Colorado counties between 1950 and 2004:

Elbert:	70	Cheyenne:	47
Kit Carson:	86	Lincoln:	78
Logan:	70	Morgan:	60
Phillips:	34	Sedgwick:	30
Washington:	116	Weld:	229
Yuma:	71		

NOAA Weather Radio: 162.475 MHz

For more information about tornadoes or other hazards, contact:

Roger Brown (970) 848-3799

Yuma County Emergency Management Director

www.NCEM10.org



YUMA COUNTY

AREA: 2,400 Square Miles
POPULATION: 9,374



Tips for Tornado Safety

***Tornado:** A violently rotating column of air, capable of producing incredible damage. It is associated with a thunderstorm, which may also produce heavy rain and large hail.*

TORNADO WATCH

The National Weather Service uses specific terminology to relay weather information to the public. Knowing the difference between a “watch” and a “warning” is the first step to understanding how to protect yourself and your family when severe weather approaches.

A **tornado watch** means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. When a tornado watch is issued for your area, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and/or television to stay informed of changing weather conditions. Remain alert for approaching storms and remember that tornadoes can occur with little or no warning. Be prepared to take cover on short notice.

When a tornado watch is issued, trained tornado spotters throughout the county will monitor local weather conditions and report information to the National Weather Service, which will advise local communications and dispatch centers of any watches or warnings in the area.

For up-to-date weather information, tune to your NOAA Weather Radio station.



TORNADO WARNING

*If a tornado warning is issued for your area ... **take cover immediately!***

A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has been sighted by or a developing tornado has been reported by trained spotters, or indicated on Doppler radar. A tornado warning is typically issued for a small area for less than an hour.

When a tornado warning is issued, local law enforcement and fire and emergency management agencies take immediate actions to protect the public, including:

- ▶ Sounding local warning sirens, where available, for continuous blasts of one to three minutes.
- ▶ Notifying schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes and senior citizens housing facilities.
- ▶ Activating the Emergency Alert System (EAS), to interrupt radio and TV broadcasts to provide instructions and information to the general public.
- ▶ Overriding local cable television broadcasts, where available, to notify the public of watches, warnings, or other weather information.



Tornado Safety

Take the following protective actions when a tornado warning is issued for your area:

- ▶ Seek shelter in a basement, preferably under something sturdy like a table, work bench or staircase.
- ▶ If you do not have a basement, go to a small interior room or hallway, such as a closet or bathroom.
- ▶ Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls (most deaths/injuries from tornadoes are caused by flying debris).
- ▶ Leave mobile homes and vehicles and seek shelter in a sturdy building or crouch low in a ditch, ravine or culvert with your hands covering your head and neck (be alert for flash floods).
- ▶ Go to predesignated shelters and safe areas in schools, hospitals, shopping centers and other large facilities – avoid large windows or glassed areas and large rooms with wide, freestanding roofs, like cafeterias and auditoriums.

The safest place to be during a tornado is underground, beneath a work bench or some other sturdy object. If you cannot take shelter in a basement or designated shelter, move to the center of the lowest level of the building, away from windows, and lie flat.