

## Rules for Tornado Survival

A tornado warning means that a **tornado has been sighted**. You cannot know whether you will have a couple of minutes to seek shelter, or as much as 20 minutes until a tornado appears.

1. Go to a below-ground location immediately, if one is available. In the order of preference, a storm cellar, root cellar or a basement provide greater protection. If this isn't available, seek a central room on the lowest (ground) floor of the building. Select an interior hallway or an interior room without a window, such as a laundry room, closet, bathroom or office. Most people are injured from airborne debris; some are victims of a collapsing building.
2. Do not stay in a vehicle or mobile home because they are hazardous during a tornado and can't provide shelter.
3. Protect yourself from glass blown at high velocities. A heavy desk or sturdy furniture will give some protection from building materials, furnishings or glass if you can crouch under it.
4. Protect your head and stay away from windows. **Do not** open windows or doors.
5. Remember typical tornado dangers and don't remain out in the open. Falling trees, airborne objects, broken glass, collapsing buildings and collapsing power lines are all likely.
6. Get in a culvert or ditch or under a bridge for protection from airborne debris if you are in an open area. Tornadoes can toss a truck or car, so you cannot risk getting picked up by tornadic winds.

Storm fronts may have several funnel clouds. A number of tornadoes reverse direction, so keep alert to these dangers, even after a tornado has passed. Be a survivor, not a victim, and wait patiently because rain and hail can easily mask another tornado. If you don't lose your electric power and television, the National Weather Service bulletins provide the best indication of when the damaging storms have passed your area.