

Tornado Rescue Procedures

1. Obtain first aid or medical care for anyone injured by the storm. Notify your relatives of your safety. This may free up local authorities from trying to locate you, should you not send word. Use telephones only for essential emergency calls to allow others to obtain rescue or treatment.
2. Do not enter any building damaged by a tornado until it has been properly “shored” or deemed stable from further collapse. Plaster, ceilings and walls may not be secure and may collapse without much contact or force. Downed wires should be avoided and treated as if they are energized. Wait for an electrician or the power company to disconnect power to the damaged property. Allow qualified electricians to remove electrical hazards before attempting to reenter damaged property.
3. Be on the alert for gas line leaks. Don’t bring lanterns, torches, lighted cigarettes or open flames into damaged buildings. If there is any odor, shut off the gas supply immediately and contact your gas supplier as soon as possible. Open all windows and doors. Leave the building immediately. Don’t reenter the building until professionals check and inform you that there is no longer a danger that gas may cause an explosion.
4. Assist others needing emergency evacuation and medical care, to the degree you have the professional training. Contact the local emergency medical technicians for advice, allowing them to “talk you through” first aid procedures to provide the best care for those injured by the storm. If possible, call the emergency room at the local hospital to alert the medical staff about the injuries that need treatment.