

Tornado Survival for Mobile Home Owners

If a tornado **watch** is issued for your area, it is wise to make plans to leave your mobile home and take shelter in a below-ground shelter. If the weather situation permits, take time to turn off the mobile home gas supply, the electric service entrance at the meter and your water supply. Don't compromise reaching a designated shelter. (Every mobile home owner should identify a designated tornado shelter, such as a community center, etc., in advance, if an underground shelter isn't available.)

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. Fourteen of the 26 people who died in Arkansas tornadoes on March 1, 1997, were in mobile homes. Abandon your mobile home, even if it is tied down. Do not take time to disconnect utilities after a warning has been issued!

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. 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.
3. Protect your head and stay away from windows. **Do not** open windows or doors.
4. Remember the 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.
5. Get in a culvert or a 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.