

Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are fairly common in Southeast Texas. A tornado can strike very quickly with little warning. It's important to know what to do should a tornado approach so you can take quick protective action. First a few terms and then tips on what to do.

Tornado Watch - Conditions favor the development of tornadoes. Stay alert, be ready to act should a tornado threaten. Watch the sky and have a way to receive warnings (smart phone apps, NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television).

Tornado Warning - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately if in the warned area.

Tornado Emergency - Issued in exceedingly rare circumstances when there is a severe threat to human life and/or catastrophic damage is imminent or ongoing and reliable sources confirm tornado.

If you are in a structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building) go to the center of a small interior room or interior hallway on the lowest level, away windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Avoid large rooms with large span roofs (gymnasiums, cafeterias, etc). If in a high-rise building go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible away from windows. Have a pair of sturdy shoes stored in your shelter room and put them on. Do not open windows.

If you are in a manufactured or mobile home get out immediately and go to a pre-identified location such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. It is important to identify such a sturdy shelter you can get to quickly as part of your severe weather plan.

If caught outside with no shelter make every effort to get to a safe shelter. If this is not possible your best course of action is to lie in a low spot or ditch and cover your head with your hands. It is not advisable to get under a bridge or overpass.



For more information, click here:
[weather.gov/tornado](https://www.weather.gov/tornado)
[ready.gov/tornado](https://www.ready.gov/tornado)