

Be Alert and Seek Shelter From Tornadoes

Tornadoes often occur during hurricane season, June 1 through November 30. The Southeast is susceptible to waterspouts – weak tornadoes that form over warm water. Waterspouts sometimes move inland, becoming tornadoes.

Be on the Alert

A **Tornado Watch** is issued when tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. A **Tornado Warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Remember, tornadoes occasionally develop in areas in which no severe thunderstorm watch or warning is in effect, so listen for that information as well.

Environmental Clues

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar, like a freight train
- Some tornadoes appear as a visible funnel extending only partially to the ground
- Some tornadoes are clearly visible while others are obscured by rain or nearby low-hanging clouds.

Planning Ahead

- Develop a plan for you and your family.
 - Participate in frequent drills.
 - Know the county in which you live, and stay tuned to weather bulletins.
 - Keep a highway map nearby to monitor the storm's movement from weather bulletins.
 - Listen to radio and television for information.
 - If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts, and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.
 - Know who is most at risk: people in automobiles; the elderly, very young, and physically or mentally impaired; people in manufactured (mobile) homes; or people who may not understand the warning due to a language barrier.
- ### If a Warning Is Issued
- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
 - If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.



- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave your car immediately.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.
- Manufactured (mobile) homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

Each year, many people are killed or seriously injured by tornadoes despite advance warning. Some may not hear the warning while others may have received the warning but did not believe a tornado would actually impact them. After you have received the warning or observed threatening skies, you must make the decision to seek shelter before the storm arrives. It could be the most important decision you will ever make.