

Springtime is almost here and due to the strength of El Niño we, Floridians, may be in for more tornado activity than we are used to. We would like to share some safety information to help you to prepare for threat from tornados.

Get Prepared Now

- ✓ Designate a safe room in your home that can be reached in a matter of seconds. Choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor with no windows.
- ✓ Make sure your emergency kit is fully stocked.
- ✓ Clear the areas surrounding your home of trees, trash cans, yard debris, grills, outdoor furniture, and other materials that can be moved by wind.

Before a Tornado

- ✓ Listen to local news or NOAA weather radio for the latest information and weather alerts. Always follow instructions given by local emergency management officials and know what the different alerts mean.

During a Tornado

In a structure that is not your home:

- ✓ Head to the lowest level. If a basement isn't available, take shelter in a bathroom or closet nearest to the center of the building or house.
- ✓ Cover yourself with blankets or a mattress and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

- ✓ Stay clear of windows, skylights, and glass doors.

Outdoors:

- ✓ Take shelter in a building if one is nearby.
- ✓ If there are not any buildings in your proximity, get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and attempt to drive to the nearest permanent structure.
- ✓ If you are driving your vehicle and you are hit by flying debris, pull over and put your car in park. Stay in the car with your seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows and cover yourself with a coat or blanket if possible.
- ✓ If you notice an area that is lower than your car, such as a ditch, leave your car and lie down there, covering your head and neck with your arms.

Fact: Flying debris is the greatest danger in a tornado

Tornado Alert Definitions:

Watch= An advisory to alert you of the possibility of a tornado in or near your area. You will want to stay tuned to local news reports for changing weather conditions.

Warning= A tornado has been sighted near your location. Seek shelter immediately and listen closely for weather updates.

Tornado Warning Signs:

- Dark sky, often with a greenish tint
- Hail
- Low-lying clouds
- Roaring noise, like a freight train