



Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are violent, rotating columns of air that usually occurs on the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. They usually start as a funnel cloud and can have winds of up to 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. The strong winds inside a tornado can cause damage paths of more than a mile wide and up to 50 miles long.

While tornadoes may not be common in Rhode Island, every state is at risk for tornadoes. On June 1, 2011, nearby Springfield, MA, witnessed a devastating tornado that killed 3 people, injured over 300 and destroyed/damaged over 1,400 homes and businesses.

Before a Tornado:

- Make a Disaster-Supply Kit.
- Practice your Family Emergency Communications Plan.
- Be aware of weather conditions and watch for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs: dark, often greenish or yellowish sky; large hail; large, dark, low-lying clouds; or a loud roar (like a freight train).
- Listen to local media or tune in to a NOAA Weather Radio for updated weather reports.

During a Tornado:

- If you are inside a building:
 1. Go to a designated shelter area or to the lowest building level (i.e. a basement).
 2. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level of the building.
 3. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- If you are in a trailer or mobile home: Get out the trailer/mobile home and go to the lowest floor of the closest building.
- If you are outside:
 1. Get into a car and drive to the closest storm shelter.
 2. If you cannot get to a storm shelter, stay in the car with your seatbelt on.
 3. Cover your head with your hands.



Springfield, MA. June 1, 2011

After a Tornado:

- Check for any injuries. Do not try to move a seriously injured person unless they are in immediate danger of more injuries.
- Listen to the media for directions from local, state, or federal officials.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling debris. Watch for exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines.
- Only use gas, propane, or charcoal items outside in a well-ventilated area.
- Check your home for structural damage, broken wires or pipes, and gas leaks.