

# Tornado Safety

## Toolbox Talk

If a tornado were approaching, what would you do?

Tornadoes are the most violent atmospheric phenomenon on the planet. Winds of 200 to 300 miles per hour can occur with the most violent tornadoes. Notification of impending tornadic activity is issued in the form of a tornado watch or warning.

**Tornado Watch** means tornadoes are possible in the area. Remain alert for approaching storms.

**Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky appears threatening, move to a designated place of safety.

When a tornado warning has been issued for your area or if you see an approaching tornado, follow these safety tips.

If you are in a school, hospital, factory, shopping center, small business or home:

- stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- do not open windows (this does not protect buildings from tornado damage).
- go to a basement, if one is available.
- find an interior room on the lowest floor, if there is no basement.
- cover yourself in blankets, towels or anything that will protect you from flying debris.

If you are in a high-rise building:

- go to the interior of a small room or hall.
- stay away from exterior walls or areas enclosed in glass.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately! Most deaths during tornadoes occur in cars and mobile homes. Find a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. If no suitable structure is nearby, lie flat, face down, in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head to protect against flying debris.



