

TORNADO

Preparedness

TORNADOES can destroy buildings, create deadly flying debris, flip cars, and pose a life safety risk.

Tornadoes can happen at anytime and anywhere. Signs that a tornado may be approaching include the following:



Rotating funnel-shaped cloud.



Dark or green-colored sky.



Large, dark, low-lying clouds.



Large hail.



Loud roar that sounds like a freight train.

TORNADO WATCH - BE PREPARED!

Tornadoes are possible in or near the watch area. Review your emergency plans, know where your safe room is, and be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued.

TORNADO WARNING - TAKE ACTION!

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. **You should take shelter immediately during a tornado warning.** If outside, in a car or in a mobile home, move to the closest substantial shelter.

If you are under a tornado WARNING

Go to a safe room, basement or storm cellar.



If there is no basement, go to an interior room on the lowest level.



Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.



Use your arms to protect your head and neck.



Before

Know your area's tornado risk.

Know the signs of a tornado.

Make sure your household knows what to do when a tornado watch or warning is issued.

Build an emergency kit and store copies of important documents in a safe place.

Sign up for your community's alerting system. Many Iowa counties use Alert Iowa for weather and safety alerts: alert.iowa.gov

Pay attention to weather reports and forecasts.

Identify and practice going to a safe shelter.

During

Immediately go to a safe location.

Take additional cover if needed by using your arms to protect your head and neck. Use blankets or furniture as additional cover.

Listen to trusted sources for weather updates including NOAA weather radio and local news stations.

If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get into a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.

After

Keep listening to local authorities for updates.

If you or anyone in your safe area need medical assistance call or text 911.

Save your phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text or social media to communicate with family and friends.

Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.

Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and follow any instructions from local utilities.