

Tornado

ACTION CHECKLIST

If a tornado warning covers your location, shelter now in a basement or small interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Stay away from windows and cover your head and neck. A mobile home is not a safe tornado shelter.

[] Go to the shelter

Move immediately; put shoes on if within reach and take your phone without delaying. Use a designated storm shelter when accessible.

[] Protect your head

Crouch low and cover your head and neck with your arms. Use a sturdy table or available cushioning for additional protection.

[] If outside or in a vehicle

Get to a nearby sturdy building if safely possible. Do not shelter under an overpass. Vehicles and mobile homes offer little protection.

[] Keep listening

Use local warning messages or weather radio; remain sheltered until the threat has passed and official updates permit leaving.

WATCH FOR

Do not wait to see a funnel. Darkness and rain can hide tornadoes. A watch calls for readiness; a warning calls for action.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Go to your identified shelter without waiting for confirmation when a warning or nearby clear danger is present. Keep shoes, a light and head protection close. If in a mobile home, use a nearby sturdy shelter before conditions worsen; never attempt to outrun a tornado in traffic.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/tornado/>

Tornado · official guidance