

# Helpful Links



## Phone Apps



Both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross have free weather warning apps for smartphone users. It is also possible that your local news station may have an app with weather warning functionality.



Tornado Warnings will also alert on Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) capable mobile phones.

For More Information Visit:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>

## Helpful Websites

National Weather Service:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado>

Sioux Falls Emergency Management:

<https://siouxfalls.org/emergencymanagement>

Tornado Preparedness:

<https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>

NOAA Learn About Tornadoes:

<https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/weather-atmosphere/tornadoes>

South Dakota bReady Program:

<https://bready.sd.gov/>

American Red Cross:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/tornado.html>

# Facts

## Watch

Tornadoes are possible in or near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, check supplies, and check your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps save lives.

VS

## Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room like a closet, hallway, or bathroom on the lowest level. Vehicles and mobile homes are not safe during a tornado. If no shelter is accessible lay flat face down in a low-lying area.

**Depending on where you live, tornadoes can happen year round. In the upper Midwest peak tornado season is mid June; however, it never hurts to be prepared for any emergencies that could happen every month of the year.**



### Warning Signs



- Wall and/or Funnel Cloud
- Roaring Noise
- Large Hail may fall, but not in all cases.

# TORNADO SAFETY GUIDE



# PLAN

DESIGNATE AN AREA OF HOME AND WORK AS A SHELTER AND PRACTICE GOING THERE PRIOR TO SEVERE WEATHER SEASON. BE SURE TO KEEP DISASTER SUPPLIES ON HAND:

- Flashlight + batteries
- Portable Battery Operated Radio
- Spare set of vehicle keys
- First Aid Kit
- Sturdy Shoes
- Emergency food
- Essential Medicine
- Cash and Credit Card
- Cell Phone and Portable Charger

## DEVELOP A COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Have a plan in place in case family members are separated during an incident. Ask an out-of-state relative or family member to act as the family contact. Make sure everyone knows the name and phone number of the contact person. During any storm listen to TV/Radio broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed

## BUY AN ALL HAZARDS NOAA RADIO

Emergency Management officials strongly encourage the placement of NOAA Weather Radios in every home and public location. The National Weather Service Broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information such as chemical spills 24/7, via the NOAA Weather Radio. A special tone will be activated on the radio system alerting NOAA Weather Radio Users that there is severe weather, a watch, or warning in their specific county. When a tornado is coming you have a short amount of time to make life or death decisions. Advanced planning and quick response are the keys to surviving.



# PREPARE

**When the National Weather Service Issues a tornado warning and/or the outdoor warning sirens are activated, severe weather is imminent. Seek shelter immediately and remain there until the threat has passed. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and television stations for critical information**

## IN HOMES:

- Go to the basement or small interior room or hallway on the lowest level possible.
- Get under something sturdy such as a staircase. Avoid the corners
- Stay AWAY from windows! DO NOT open the windows. It is better to utilize time by getting yourself to safety.

## IN MOBILE HOMES:

- Leave a mobile home immediately and go to a substantial shelter.
- Know how long it takes to reach your designated shelter and be ready to get there before a warning is issued or the sirens sound. Tornadoes can occur with little advance warning.

## IN SCHOOLS, MALLS, OR OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- Go to pre-designated shelter. Interior hallways or bathrooms are best.
- Stay away from large windows and glassed areas.
- Avoid large rooms such as gyms and dining hall areas.

## IN VEHICLES:

- Vehicles are not safe during a tornado.
- Your best course of action is to seek shelter in a sturdy nearby building.
- If a building is not available, you can abandon your vehicle and lie flat in a low-lying area/ditch with your hands covering your head or remain in your vehicle with your seatbelt on and head down. Neither option is safe and should only be used as a last resort.

## OUTDOORS:

- Go inside a building if possible.
- Same rules apply as with the Vehicle section above. Wherever you choose to shelter, your main priority is to protect yourself from flying and falling debris.

# RECOVER

- Continue listening to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions
- If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utilities company immediately
- Check on neighbors who may require special assistance, infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities
- Assist injured persons to your level of first-aid training until emergency responders arrive. Don't move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger of further damage.
- Stay out of damaged buildings
- Use telephone only for emergency calls
- Keep control of animals in your care
- Clean up flammable or hazardous material spills
- Take pictures of damage to your vehicles, home, and its contents for insurance purposes.
- Replenish any materials you have used from your disaster supplies as soon as is possible
- Most importantly: STAY SAFE

## OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

The City of Sioux Falls maintains an extensive system of outdoor warning sirens. The system is designed to be an early warning device primarily for persons who are outside and away from television and/or radio. Don't count on a siren to wake you when you're asleep or to get your attention above the background noise of your home or car.

Outdoor warning sirens are not frequently heard in homes during spring and summer months for multiple reasons, including distance from siren, homes being shut up with air conditioners running, and people being asleep during night storms with thunder, rain, and wind. For this reason Emergency management officials recommend citizens keep a programmable NOAA Weather Radio in their homes, preferably in the bedroom, with a tone alert.

**Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated only when Imminent threat to life or property exists. There are no "All Clear" siren activations.**