



# Tornado Safety



in michigan

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## Tornado terms to warn you.....Do you know them?

### WATCH:

A Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued whenever conditions exist for severe weather to develop. Watches are usually for large areas about two-thirds the size of lower Michigan and are usually two to six hours long. Watches give you time to plan and prepare. Persons in or near a watch area should place small objects inside (such as garbage cans and bicycles) which could become deadly missiles. Make sure the entire family is informed and that they know what to do if a tornado is sighted. Keep children under close supervision. Keep an eye on the sky and listen for later statements and warnings.



### WARNING:

A Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued by the local National Weather Service Office whenever a tornado or severe thunderstorm has actually been sighted or is strongly indicated by radar. Warnings are for smaller areas, such as a portion of a county, and are usually 30 minutes to 1 hour long. You must act immediately when you first hear the warning. If the severe weather is reported near you, seek shelter immediately. If not, keep a constant lookout for severe weather and stay near shelter.



## Where can I take shelter if I am.....

**IN A HOME:** A basement offers the greatest safety. Seek shelter under sturdy furniture if possible. In homes without basements take cover in the center of the house on the lowest floor in a small room such as a closet or bathroom.

**IN A MOBILE HOME:** During warnings, go to a prearranged substantial shelter.

**DRIVING A VEHICLE:** Get out of the vehicle and take shelter in a nearby building, ditch or ravine — away from the vehicle.

**AT WORK OR AT SCHOOL:** Follow advance plans to move to interior hallways or small rooms on the lowest floor. Avoid areas with glass and wide, freespan roofs. (Schools, factories, and office buildings should designate someone to look out for severe weather and initiate an alarm.)

**IN OPEN COUNTRY:** Get into a sturdy building if possible, or lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression

## NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. It provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information directly from National Weather Service offices. Taped weather messages are repeated every four to six minutes and are routinely revised every one to three hours, or more frequently if needed. Most of the stations operate 24 hours daily.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts are made on one of three high-band FM frequencies - 162.40, 162.475, or 162.55 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are not found on the average home radio now in use. However, a number of radio manufacturers offer special weather radios to operate on these frequencies, with or without the emergency warning alarm. Also, there are now many radios on the market which offer standard AM/FM frequencies plus the so-called "weather band" as an added feature.

If more information on NOAA Weather Radio is required, please write: National Weather Service (Attn.: W112), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Springs, MD 20910.

## Knowing what to do is your best protection when disaster strikes

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere. Would your family be prepared to cope with the emergency until help arrives? Families can prepare in advance and work together as a team by having a **Family Disaster Plan** ready, and assembling a **Disaster Supplies Kit** so your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement.



### Create an Emergency Plan for your family.

- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet:
  1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
  2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)
- Teach Children how and when to call 9-1-1

### Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.

#### This kit should include:

Flashlight  
Extra Batteries  
First Aid Kit  
Can Opener

Canned Food  
Battery Operated Radio  
Bottled Water  
Extra Clothes

For more information, please contact your local emergency management or civil defense office.

**Start planning now!**