



# Tornado WATCH Versus WARNING

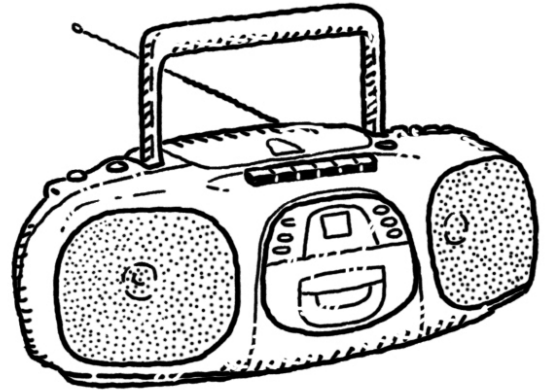
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What to Do During a Tornado WATCH

If a tornado WATCH is issued for your area, it means that a tornado is possible.

- Listen to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio or a local radio or television station for updated information. Tornadoes can change direction, intensity and speed very quickly.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Tornadoes accompany severe thunderstorms, and weather conditions can change rapidly. Large hail, blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say an approaching tornado sounds like a freight train.
- Make sure your family disaster supplies kit is ready.



## What to Do During a Tornado WARNING

If a tornado WARNING is issued, it means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe place immediately. Remember, there is often no time to issue a tornado WARNING. If the signs are there and a WATCH is in effect, move to safety.

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or a local radio or television station for updated information. (NOAA Weather Radio, which is broadcast on seven VHF frequencies ranging from 162.400 MHz to 162.550 MHz, can be heard on handheld radio receivers that just pick up Weather Radio or desktop or console models that receive Weather Radio in addition to other broadcasts. These can be purchased at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. They can also be purchased via the Internet from online retailers or directly from manufacturers.)
- If you are inside, go to your safe place to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The safest place to take shelter during a tornado is in a basement. If your





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home does not have a basement, go to the lowest floor and take shelter in a hallway, closet or small room toward the inside of the building, away from windows.

- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold on to it. Sturdy furniture will help protect you from falling debris. If a tornado wind enters the room and the object moves, holding on with one hand will help you move with it, keeping you protected. Use your other arm and hand to protect your head and neck from falling or flying objects.
- Stay away from windows. Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone.
- If you are outside in a car or in a mobile home or transportable classroom, go immediately to the basement of a nearby sturdy building. Tornado winds can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet.
- If there is no nearby building, lie flat in a low spot. Use your arms and hands to protect your head. Do not go under highway bridges and overpasses because dangerous flying debris can be blown under them, or weakened overpasses and bridges can be destroyed. Tornadoes come from severe thunderstorms, which can produce a lot of rain. If you see quickly rising water or floodwater coming toward you, move to another spot.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, large hallways, or shopping malls. Wide-span roofs are frequently damaged or destroyed in tornado winds. Wide-span roofs provide less protection than roofs over smaller rooms and increase the risk of injury.

