

# COMMITMENT

To Safety

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## Severe Weather

### TORNADO SAFETY

Each year about 1,000 tornadoes touch down in the US. While only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, you can greatly reduce your chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

#### **BE ALERT** to the onset of severe weather

- When the weather starts looking stormy, turn to the local radio or television or internet weather site to get your forecast

**BE AWARE** of what is happening outside... here are some things that people describe when they tell about a tornado experience

- Sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky
- When hail occurs, and a watch or warning has been posted, hail can be a real danger sign
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky
- A sound like a waterfall or rushing air but turning into a roar as it comes closer
- Debris falling from the sky
- An obvious “funnel-shaped” cloud rotating, or debris being pulled upward, even if no funnel cloud is visible

#### **FIND THE SAFEST SHELTER**

- Go to a basement or shelter specifically for storm protection
- Small, windowless, first floor, interior room – like a closet or bathroom or interior hallway away from windows
- Put as many walls between you and the tornado as possible
- Avoid areas that open to the southwest, south or west; stay away from glass
- Crouch down and make as small of a target as possible

#### **PREPARE A “RED CROSS” DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

- First aid kit (essential medications added to usual items)
- Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra fresh batteries
- Canned and other non-perishable food and hand operated can opener
- Bottled water
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves
- Written instructions on how to turn off your homes’ utilities

Sources/Additional Information: [fema.gov](http://fema.gov), [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), [nws.noaa.gov](http://nws.noaa.gov), American Red Cross