

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



TORNADO PREPAREDNESS


Tornadoes can cause extensive damage to homes and property and pose a serious risk to your safety, including death. It is crucial to take immediate action when a tornado alert is issued. In Canada, tornado season is from April to September, but tornadoes can occur at any time of the year.

What is a tornado?

A tornado is a rotating column of air that extends from a thundercloud to the ground, with wind speeds reaching up to 400 km/h. Additionally, they can range in width from 10 meters to over one kilometer and typically move at 15–30 km/h. Tornadoes are often hard to see from a distance, may lack a visible funnel cloud, and can appear stationary even as they move toward you.

Actions to Take Before a Tornado Occurs

Before a tornado occurs, you can take the following actions to ensure your safety:

| | | |
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| Know the hazards in your area Heatstroke | Download the Alberta Emergency Alert System | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Know the signs a tornado may be forming: https://shorturl.at/vT5AB  Scan to visit EMSA's Warning Signs that a Tornado May Develop | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have any questions
please contact:
wildfires@metis.org



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Actions to Take Before a Tornado Occurs Cont'd

| | | |
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| Take preparedness actions | Create a household emergency kit and pet emergency kit. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Pick a safe place in your home for household members to shelter during a tornado, preferably a basement. Ensure your chosen place is away from external doors, windows, and walls. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Talk to your building manager if you live in a high-rise or apartment complex. Learn more about your building's emergency plan and where you would go to shelter in place. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Have practice drills so everyone in your household knows what to do and where to go. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | If you live in a mobile home, find the nearest sturdy building and take shelter if you know a tornado could form. Mobile homes do not offer much protection from tornadoes. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Actions to Take During a Tornado

Tornadoes pose a serious risk to your life. If a tornado alert is issued or you believe a tornado is forming, take shelter immediately. Take the following actions to protect yourself and your loved ones:

| | |
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| If you are indoors | Take shelter in the lowest and most central room, preferably a basement or cellar. Also, stay away from external doors, windows, and walls. Finally, get under a sturdy piece of furniture and use your arms to protect your head and neck. |
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Actions to Take During a Tornado Cont'd

| | |
|---|--|
| If you are outdoors | Go inside immediately. If you can't get inside, lie flat in a ditch or sunken ground and cover your head and neck with your hands. Do not go under an overpass or bridge. |
| If you live in a high-rise or an apartment | If there is a basement or underground parking, go there. If not, pick a place in the hallway in the center of the building or where otherwise indicated by the building's emergency plan. |
| If you are driving | <p>Driving a car during a tornado is very dangerous. Try to get to a sturdy building if you can, and if there is no solid structure nearby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Park the car as quickly as possible in a safe location – out of the traffic lanes, if you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris. ∞ Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows and cover your head with your hands and a blanket or piece of clothing. ∞ Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, where wind speeds can increase. |
| General actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Important: always follow the instructions of local authorities during a tornado alert. ∞ Bring your emergency kit; if you have time to grab it safely. ∞ Get down, protect your head from flying debris. |



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Actions to Take After a Tornado

Wait at least one minute in your covered position after the tornado has passed. Listen to local authorities for further information and instructions. If you must leave your home, take your emergency kits with you, medication, and other important documents. For your safety:

- ∞ Stay away from damaged areas and fallen power lines.
- ∞ Don't light matches or turn on electrical switches until you're sure there are no gas leaks or spilled flammable liquids.
- ∞ Only return home when it is safe. If you suspect your home is unsafe, do not enter until it has been deemed safe by a professional.
- ∞ Be careful during clean-up. Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and closed-toed shoes when examining your home for damage.

Additional Suggestions

- ∞ Before you throw anything away or make repairs, take pictures of building damage and its contents for insurance claims.
- ∞ Only make phone calls if someone's life is in danger or if they require immediate emergency assistance. Otherwise, use texting or direct messaging on social media. See the "Communication During Emergencies" for more information.
- ∞ Contact your local government to see what supports may be available in your area.
- ∞ Check on family members, friends, and neighbours who may require assistance.



Scan to visit
Communication
During
Emergencies
Poster



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