

Are you ReadyNC? ... for Tornadoes

Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning. March through May is peak tornado season for North Carolina.

Danger Signs

- When tornado watches or warnings are posted, falling hail can be a real danger sign.
- A cloud of debris can indicate a tornado, even if you cannot see a funnel.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.
- Tornadoes occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. You may see clear, sunny skies behind a tornado.

Know the Terms

Watch – conditions are right for tornado formation.

Warning – a tornado has been sighted!

Be Safe! Act Quickly

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or radio and television news updates. Follow orders from local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather. Look for oncoming storms.
- Find something sturdy to get under and hold onto to shield you from flying debris and/or a collapsed roof. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Know Where to Go

- At Home – Go to the basement. Under the stairs or in a bathroom or closet also are good spots.
- At Work – Go to the basement if there is one. Stairwells, bathrooms and closets are good spots. As a last resort, crawl under your desk.
- At School – Seek shelter in inside hallways, small closets and bathrooms. Get out of mobile classrooms, gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with a large expanse of roof. Bus drivers should be alert for bad weather on their routes.
- In Stores – Seek shelter against an inside wall. An enclosed hallway or fire exit leading away from the main mall concourse is a good spot. Stay away from skylights and large open areas.
- Outside – Find the nearest sturdy shelter. Or seek shelter in a ditch or low-lying area and cover your head with your hands. DO NOT get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. Watch out for flying debris.
- In a car – Never try to outrun a tornado in a car. Pull over, and seek shelter in a building.



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ReadyNC.org
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