

PRECAUTIONS BEFORE A TORNADO

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. A low, flat location is safer.
- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement or in a safe room.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor; turn over a sturdy piece of furniture and get underneath it. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Listen to a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Stay away from windows. Go to the center of the home. Stay away from corners because they attract debris.
- Get out of automobiles immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building. If a building is unavailable or there is no time, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the car. Be aware of the potential for flooding. In urban or congested areas, never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle; immediately abandon it for shelter. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift up a vehicle and toss it in the air.
- If caught outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding
- Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes can cause fatalities and injuries.
- Do not open windows, use time to seek shelter.



Office of
Emergency
Management

www.lakecountyfl.gov
352-343-9420

Learning About

TORNADOES

TORNADO FACTS

01

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.

02

Tornadoes are capable of destroying homes and vehicles and can cause deaths.

03

Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel. The average tornado moves southwest to northeast but tornadoes have been known to travel in any direction.

04

Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.

05

The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from stationary to 70 mph and have rotating winds in excess of 250 mph.

06

Tornadoes can occur any time of the year.

07

Similar to other southern states, peak tornado season in Florida is March through May; however, historically, the deadliest tornadoes in Central Florida have been known to occur as early as February.

08

Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.

TORNADO DANGER SIGNS

Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Some warning signs of a tornado are a dark, often greenish sky, large hail, wall cloud and loud roar, similar to the sound of a freight train.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Tornado Watch – This watch is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado is possible in the area. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to a NOAA weather radio or weather reports on an AM/FM radio or television for more information.

Tornado Warning – This warning is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious, and everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and wait for the warning to expire.