

are YOU ready? Tornado Safety 101



There is no such thing as guaranteed safety. Freak accidents happen; and the most violent tornadoes can level and blow away almost any house and its occupants. Extremely violent EF5 tornadoes are very rare. Most tornadoes are actually much weaker and can be survived using these safety ideas.

Tornado Watch:
Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area.

VS.

Tornado Warning:
A tornado is occurring or an imminent threat.

SIGNS OF A TORNADO

- Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.
- Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base — tornadoes sometimes have no funnel.
- Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen.
- Day or night — Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.
- Night — Small, bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm (as opposed to silvery lightning up in the clouds). These mean power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado.
- Night — Persistent lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning — especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.

PREVENTION AND PRACTICE BEFORE THE STORM

Make sure you have a tornado plan in place. Know where to take shelter. Practice a family tornado drill. Name a place to meet after a disaster. Store protective coverings in or next to your shelter space for protection from flying debris. When a tornado watch is issued, think about the drill and make sure safety supplies are handy. Turn on local TV, radio or NOAA Weather Radio and stay alert for warnings.

The Nappanee EMS suggests that you assemble a “disaster supplies kit” that you keep in your shelter area. It should contain:

- First-Aid kit with essential medication in addition to the usual items
- Battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Bottled water.
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves.
- Written instructions on how to turn off your homes utilities.
- Canned and other non-perishable food and a hand operated can opener.

STORM SHELTER FACILITIES

Nappanee was blessed not to have had any fatalities during the 2007 tornado that came through the southeast of town. Shelters are up and running in several areas of the city for those without shelter, they are located at:

- **Lutheran Church** on South Main Street
- **North Main Mennonite Church** on North Main Street
- **Nappanee United Methodist Church** on East Market Street
- **Nappanee Church of the Brethren** on Mack Drive
- **First Mennonite Church** on West Market Street
- **Living Gospel Church** at 302 West Walnut Street (Handicap Access)

THE STORM HITS: WHERE ARE YOU?



In a house with a basement:
Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of protection. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened floor and crush you.



In a house with no basement:
Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room, under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down, and cover your head with your hands.



In an office building:
Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building. Crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter. Stay off the elevators.



In a mobile home:
Get out! Even if your home is tied down, it is not as safe as an underground shelter or permanent, sturdy building.



At school:
Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms.



In the open outdoors:
If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.



In a mall or a store:
Do not panic. Watch for others. Move as quickly as possible to an interior bathroom, storage room or other small enclosed area. Crouch face-down and protect your head with your arms.



In a car or truck:
Park the car safely. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges.

WHAT TO DO AFTER THE STORM

- Keep your family together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Carefully render aid to those who are injured. Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them; they may still be carrying electricity!
- Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails, and other sharp objects. 50% of all tornado related injuries occur after the tornado is over.
- Stay out of any heavily damaged houses or buildings; they could collapse at any time.
- Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.
- Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency crews or local officials.
- If your home's been damaged, turn off the electricity and shut off the gas and propane to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions.

REMEMBER: STAY ALERT, STAY SAFE, STAY ALIVE!