

D. Tornado

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. It is spawned by a thunderstorm and sometimes a hurricane. Tornado season is generally March through August; however, they can occur at any time of year. They tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings. Tornadoes strike with incredible velocity. Wind speeds may approach 300 miles per hour. These winds can uproot trees and structures and turn harmless objects into deadly missiles, all in a matter of seconds. Normally a tornado will stay on the ground for no more than 20 minutes; however, one tornado can touch ground several times in different areas. Tornadoes are most destructive when they touch ground.

Tornado Watch

A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for tornado formation. Remain alert and do the following:

- Review actions to take (below) should the situation change to a Tornado Warning, or if a tornado funnel is sighted.
- Ensure no physical restrictions exist that would prevent free movement to your nearest safe area. Clear any blocked doors, aisles, etc.

Tornado Warning

A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted. Do the following:

- Take cover. Proceed to the nearest safe area or shelter. Because of possible electrical failures, use the stairs, not the elevator.
- Stay away from windows and other glass.
- Avoid auditoriums and gymnasiums with large, long span-supported roofs.
- In multi-story buildings, move to the ground level. Inner hallways are usually safe areas.
- Do not phone Security or Police for information. Keep telephone circuits clear for Emergency messages.