

AFTER IT HAS PASSED

- Continue listening to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions.
- If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utilities company immediately.
- Check on neighbors who may require special assistance, infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Assist injured persons to your level of first-aid training until emergency responders arrive. Don't move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger of further damage.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Keep control of animals in your care.
- Clean up flammable or hazardous material spills.
- Take pictures of damages to your automobiles, home, and its contents for insurance purposes.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

The City of Sioux Falls maintains an extensive system of outdoor warning sirens. The system is designed to be an early warning device primarily for persons who are outside and away from the television and/or radio. Don't count on a siren to wake you when you're asleep or to get your attention above the background noise of your home or car. If the weather looks threatening, turn on a television or radio.

Outdoor warning sirens are not frequently heard in homes during spring and summer months for multiple reasons, including distance from the siren, homes being shut up with air conditioners running, and people being asleep during night storms with thunder, rain, and wind. For this reason, Emergency Management officials highly recommend citizens keep a programmable NOAA Weather Radio in their homes, preferably in the bedroom, with a tone alert.

Outdoor warning sirens are activated only when an imminent threat to life and property exists. There are no "all clear" siren activations.

The outdoor warning system is tested on the first Friday of each month at 11 a.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

www.siouxfalls.org/emergencymanagement, or
www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd



TORNADO SAFETY



A tornado is a strong force of nature that can strike anytime, anywhere, and more than once. Within a matter of seconds it can injure, kill, and destroy.

BASIC FACTS

TORNADO WATCH

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

TORNADO WARNING

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room like a closet, hallway, or bathroom.

WHEN IS TORNADO SEASON?

Tornado season is generally May through July in South Dakota, although tornadoes can occur at any time of the year.

IS THERE A TIME OF DAY WHEN TORNADOES USUALLY HAPPEN?

Yes, tornadoes tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings. More than 80 percent of all tornadoes strike between noon and midnight.

WHAT ARE SOME TORNADO DANGER SIGNS?

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall and/or funnel cloud
- Large hail
- Roaring noise

ARE THERE OTHER SIGNS I SHOULD LOOK FOR?

Some tornadoes appear as a visible funnel extending only partially to the ground. Look for signs of debris below the visible funnel. Before a tornado hits the wind may die down and the air may become very still. An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear sunlit skies behind a tornado.

THINGS TO DO NOW

DESIGNATE AN AREA IN HOME AND WORK AS A SHELTER AND PRACTICE GOING THERE PRIOR TO SEVERE WEATHER SEASON.

Disaster supplies to have on hand:

- Flashlight and extra batteries (do not use candles or open-flame devices)
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Spare set of keys for vehicles
- First-aid kit
- Emergency food and water
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes
- Personal identification

DEVELOP A COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

Have a plan in place in case family members are separated during an incident. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to act as the family contact. Make sure everyone knows the name and phone number of the contact person. During any storm, listen to local television/radio broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about watches and warnings.



BUY AN ALL HAZARDS NOAA WEATHER RADIO.

Emergency Management officials strongly encourage the placement of NOAA Weather Radios in every home and public location. The National Weather Service broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information such as chemical spills and terrorism events 24/7, via the NOAA Weather Radio. A special tone will be activated on the radio system alerting NOAA Weather Radio users that there is severe weather, a watch, or warning in their specific county. When a tornado is coming you have a short amount of time to make life or death decisions. Advanced planning and quick response are the keys to surviving.

DOWNLOAD TORNADO WARNING APP

The American Red Cross offers free weather warning apps for smartphone users.

WHEN IT'S ON THE WAY

When the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning and/or the outdoor warning sirens are activated, severe weather is imminent. Seek shelter immediately and remain there for 30 minutes. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and television stations for critical information.

IN HOMES:

- Go to the basement or a small interior room or hallway on the lowest level possible.
- Get under something sturdy such as a staircase. Avoid the corners.
- Stay AWAY from windows! DO NOT open the windows. It is better to utilize that time by getting yourself to safety!

IN MOBILE HOMES:

- Leave a mobile home immediately and go to a substantial shelter.
- If there isn't a shelter available, lie flat in a ditch, ravine, or culvert and cover your head with your hands.

IN SCHOOLS, MALLS, OR OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

- Go to the pre-designated shelter. Interior hallways or bathrooms are best.
- Stay away from large windows and glassed areas.
- Avoid large rooms such as gyms and dining halls.

IN VEHICLES:

- Do not try to outrun the tornado!
- Abandon the vehicle immediately! Seek shelter in a nearby building. If no shelter is available, lie in a ditch or some other type of depression and remember to cover your head with your hands.
- Do not take cover under a bridge.

OUTDOORS:

- Go inside a building if possible.
- If shelter is not available or there is no time to go indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Use your arms to protect your head.