



TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

TORNADO SAFETY FOR TEXANS

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas, but they happen most often in spring and summer. Monitor TV and radio broadcasts for storm information, as well as NOAA weather radio. When a tornado is sighted, the most important rule is to ***get low and stay low.***

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of a home, office or other building. Shelter in a windowless area: a stairwell, bathroom, hallway or storage closet.
- Avoid any area with a wide, unsupported roof such as an auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria or theater. Avoid areas with windows or large amounts of glass.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out immediately and take shelter in a nearby sturdy building. If there is no nearby building, lie flat in a ditch or ravine. Watch out for flooding.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in your car. Leave the car and lie flat in a ditch or ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. Avoid highway overpasses.
- At school, follow the drill and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.
- Go to the interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor of a shopping center. Do not leave the shopping center to get in your car.
- If you are in open country, take cover on low, protected ground. Keep an eye out for flooding.



For more information, contact TDEM Public Information at (512) 424-2138 or visit TDEM's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.