



Preparing for tornado season

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Texas averages 136 tornadoes each year. While they can occur throughout the year, we see most tornadoes from April through June. Now is the perfect time to make sure that you'll be prepared whether you're at home, in the office or driving a vehicle.

Weather alerts

The first step to staying safe during a tornado is knowing when one is coming. Funnel-shaped clouds, large hail and a dark or green-colored sky could all be signs that a tornado is nearby. In addition to watching the sky, national and community alert systems can keep you in the loop. Make sure you're signed up for severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and any emergency alert systems in your community. If you work in an office, make sure you're familiar with the alerts within the building.

A tornado watch means that a tornado is likely to occur. Under a tornado watch, you should move to a safe building, stay tuned to weather alert systems and be ready to seek shelter. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. Under a tornado warning, you should grab your emergency kit and take shelter quickly.

Shelter

One of the most important ways you can prepare for a tornado is to identify a shelter-in-place location at home and work. During a tornado, the safest place to be is underground. Unfortunately, most of us don't have access to an underground shelter in Texas. In this case, your safest option is:

- The lowest part of your home or building
- A small, interior room
- Far away from windows
- Away from exterior walls

When you're on the road during a tornado, sheltering becomes more difficult. You should try to get to a nearby building, if possible. If you can't make it to a shelter, stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt buckled, duck down and cover your head with a blanket or your hands.

Emergency kit

You may need to shelter for an extended amount of time, so it's important to have essential items ready and available. FEMA recommends your emergency kit includes water, non-perishable foods, a can opener, batteries, flashlights, a first-aid kit, portable cell phone chargers and a battery-powered radio. If you're frequently on the road, make sure you have a kit available in your vehicle.

You'll need to stay in your designated shelter until the storm passes. While waiting, protect yourself from potential flying objects by covering yourself in blankets or towels. After the tornado has passed, make sure you communicate with your employer and report any injuries.



Discussion questions

1. When do most tornados occur in Texas?
2. What are some weather signs that a tornado is nearby?
3. What is the difference between a tornado warning and watch?
4. What should you look for in a tornado shelter location?
5. What are some examples of items to keep in your emergency kit?

Answers

1. Tornado season occurs in April through June.
2. Tornado warning signs can include funnel-shaped clouds, large hail and dark or green-colored sky.
3. A tornado watch means a tornado is likely to develop and a warning means one has been spotted or identified on radar.
4. Aim to locate a shelter area within an interior room in the lowest part of the building, far away from windows and exterior walls.
5. Emergency kits should include items such as water, non-perishable foods, a can opener, batteries, flashlights, a first-aid kit, portable cell phone chargers and a battery-powered radio.

Meeting notes:

Employee comments/concerns: _____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: _____

Training record:

Date: _____ Job site/facility: _____
 Trainer: _____ Title: _____

Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/