



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Tornado Safety



The main point you should remember is protecting you and your loved ones from flying and falling debris.

A storm shelter is your best choice, if you have one. If you have a basement, go there and get under something sturdy to shelter you from falling debris (for instance, a strong workbench, or a staircase).

If you have no basement or storm shelter, go to an interior room without windows on the first floor of your home. Bathrooms are a good choice because the plumbing reinforces the walls. Closets are also a good choice since they normally have no windows. The idea is to put as many walls between you and an approaching tornado as possible; flying debris can penetrate exterior walls.

Stay away from windows entirely! Opening windows will not reduce a tornado's damage to a home. Leave windows alone completely and get to a safe place immediately.

If you live in a mobile home, it should be abandoned; seek shelter in a neighboring frame home or, better yet, a storm shelter. If you are in a motor vehicle in a populated area, do not try to drive away from a tornado; abandon your vehicle and seek shelter nearby.

If you are traveling in a rural area, drive away from the tornado at a right angle to its path. If caught in the open, get down in a sheltered low spot, and cover your head with your arms; hang on to something if it is available.

If you hear a tornado warning, you should seek immediate shelter and not waste precious seconds to see if it is true for you; wasting a few minutes in a safe place once in awhile is better than becoming another tornado statistic!

Develop an emergency communication plan.

In case family members are separated from one another during a tornado (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.

Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.