

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mission Statement

Protect and preserve the lives and property of the citizens of Dougherty County from Natural and Manmade disaster

Is Your Family Tornado Ready?

1) Prepare a home Tornado plan:

- Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.
- Conduct periodic tornado drills, so everyone remembers what to do when a tornado is approaching.
- Stay tuned for storm warnings

Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information

2) Assemble a Tornado Safety Kit containing:

- First aid kit and essential medication
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Canned food and can opener
- Bottled water
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves, blankets

Also include in the kit written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities

3) Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:

- A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.

A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area.

4) When a tornado WATCH is issued:

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further

updates.

- Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you.

Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

5) When a tornado WARNING is issued:

- Go to safety immediately.
- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.
- The tornado may be approaching your area.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).
- After the tornado passes: Watch out for fallen power lines and do not venture into the damaged area.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.

Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage (avoid using candles or matches).

6) Plan and get ready:

Forget The Wizard of Oz notion that "twisters" only happen in Kansas. Tornadoes have been reported in every state. And while they generally occur during spring and summer, they can happen anytime during the year. With winds swirling at 200 miles an hour or more, a tornado can destroy just about anything in its path. Generally, there are weather signs and warnings that will alert you to take precautions. Be prepared by having various family members do each of the items on the checklist below. Then get together to discuss and finalize your Home Tornado Plan.