



# Tornado Preparedness

**Audience:** General, ESRD Community

## Tornado Terms

**Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

**Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

## Tornado Facts

- ◆ Tornadoes may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- ◆ They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- ◆ Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.
- ◆ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- ◆ The Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF scale) rates the strength of tornadoes in the United States and Canada based on the damage they cause.

## When A Tornado Hits

- ⇒ Immediately take cover in a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.
- ⇒ Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- ⇒ If outside, get into a vehicle or ditch and cover your head. Never use an overpass for shelter.

## Tornado Resources

- ◆ [Tornado FAQ](#) - How do tornadoes form? Where is the safest place to shelter? Should I open the windows in my house during a tornado? Get answers to frequently asked questions about tornadoes.
- ◆ Learn what to do before, during and after a tornado with these YouTube videos from NOAA:
  - ◇ [Get Weather-Ready: Before a Tornado](#)
  - ◇ [Get Weather-Ready: During a Tornado](#)
  - ◇ [Get Weather-Ready: After a Tornado](#)

ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE	
EF5	+200 mph
EF4	166-200 mph
EF3	136-165 mph
EF2	111-135 mph
EF1	86-110 mph
EF0	65-85 mph

## Additional Information

<http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>

<http://kcercoalition.com/kcer-home/hazards/natural-events/>