



# PREPARING FOR SEVERE WEATHER

## *How to Respond to Tornadoes*

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Tornadoes are one of the most feared natural disasters that can cause great destruction within a matter of minutes. While most people know where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado, what happens when a storm is approaching, and there are people in your building? What if it happens during worship or school? Do you have a plan in place?

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### ***Ahead of Time***

The following steps are intended to help you prepare and know how to respond to a tornado:

- + Designate a Safety and Security Team, or individual member, to act as an emergency coordinator for your organization.
- + Empower the team or person to develop a response plan for tornadoes and other emergencies.
- + Communicate with and train staff members, volunteers, and other key people regarding what to do in emergency situations.
- + Have someone available to monitor the radio if weather looks threatening so you're ready to respond.
- + Design a communication method to let everyone in the facility know what to do and where to go.
- + Designate the location in your facility that is the safest. Place signs that designate it as a "safe place."
- + Post instructions and maps throughout the facility with directions.
- + Have the following critical items on hand in the safe place to assist in an emergency:
  - + Blankets, weather radio, first-aid kit, food and water, mobile phone, flashlights, batteries, emergency contact numbers.

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- + Practice safety and evacuation drills regularly.
  - + Be prepared to evaluate and respond to any injuries.
  - + Evaluate and make changes as necessary.

### ***When a Tornado Arrives***

- + Listen closely to weather reports.
- + Do NOT go outside.
- + Seek shelter in the designated safe room.
- + Keep any drapes, blinds, or window shades closed to protect occupants from the possibility of broken glass

Once you are sure the storm has passed, use caution. Your structure could be damaged. Further, as you go outside, use extreme caution as live power lines may be down; and there may be a large amount of debris that could cause bodily injury.

### ***After the Storm***

- + Treat those who have an injury or seek medical attention for them.
- + Assess any damage. Take pictures if possible.
- + Protect property from further damage using tarps or wood.
- + Contact people who will be needed to secure the facility (building contractors, utility companies, etc.).
- + Contact your insurance company.

Unfortunately, many people are killed every year due to tornadoes. By being proactive in your planning and ability to respond, you may help save the lives of people who look to their leaders to keep them safe and secure.

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▶ Access additional safety resources at [SafeChurch.com](https://www.SafeChurch.com) or speak to your GuideOne agent at **1.888.218.8561** for more information.

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