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Severe Weather Awareness Week Tornado Safety Tips

TORNADO! The very word strikes fear in many people. Tornadoes are extremely dangerous. however by following Tornado Safety Rules, lives can be saved and injuries prevented.

Warning the public of severe weather is the National Weather Service's (NWS) most important job. To help the public prepare for tornado situations, the NWS has adopted a Watch and Warning program.

Tornado Watch: This means that conditions are favorable for tornado development. This is the time to prepare. Keep alert by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, or the commercial media for the latest weather information.

Tornado Warning: This means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life saving action.

In schools, hospitals, factories, shopping centers and other public places: Move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest level are best. Stay away from windows and out of auditoriums, gymnasiums, or structures with large free span roofs.

Tornado Myths

Myth: Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

Fact: No place is safe from tornadoes. They can cross rivers, travel up mountains, and roar through valleys

Myth: Low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to "explode" as the tornado passes overhead.

Fact: Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.

Myth: Windows should be opened before a tornado to equalize pressure and minimize damage.

Fact: Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone.

In Vehicles: Do not try to outrun a tornado. Seek shelter in a substantial building. Abandon

your vehicle if necessary and hide in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head

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