



## Severe Weather and Tornadoes

### Never Underestimate The Dangers Of A Severe Storm



- Tornadoes are nature's most violent form of storm activity. The spiraling winds of a tornado may reach speeds of up to 450 km per hour and create a path of destruction up to 300 metres wide. Every year in Canada there are approximately 80 tornadoes, causing 2 deaths, 20 injuries, and ten of millions of dollars in damage.



- Severe weather that does not produce tornadoes can still be very dangerous. Strong thunderstorms can produce intense lightning, high winds, large hail, and flash floods.

### How Can I Be Prepared For Severe Weather?

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado and thunderstorm **WATCH** and **WARNING** means:

#### A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM

<b>WATCH</b>	<b>WARNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditions favour the development of severe thunderstorms with large hail, heavy rain, intense lightning, and damaging winds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A severe storm <b>has developed</b>, producing one or more of the following conditions: heavy rain, damaging winds, hail, or intense lightning</li> </ul>

#### A TORNADO

<b>WATCH</b>	<b>WARNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditions favour the development of tornadoes within the areas and times specified in the watch. Be prepared to take shelter, preferably in the lower level of a sturdy building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more tornadoes are occurring in the specified area. If you are in the current path of a tornado, take emergency precautions immediately.</li> </ul>

Source:  Environment Canada



### What Do I Do If A Tornado Warning Is Issued?

- **If you are inside**, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. Get down and cover your head. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture or a mattress if available. Stay away from windows.
- **If you are outside**, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area and cover your head. Remember to go low and get low.
- **If you are in a car**, do not try to outrun a tornado. Get out of your vehicle, find a ditch or depression, lie flat in it and protect your head.
- **If you are in a motor home or trailer**, leave your mobile home and seek shelter in a nearby sturdy building. Mobile homes, even if properly tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes or microbursts.
- **If you are in a hospital**,
  - draw all shades and close all drapes as protection from flying glass
  - lower patient beds to lowest position, and move the bed away from the windows
  - place blankets on all bed patients
  - close all doors
  - move as many ambulatory patients as possible to the inner hallways
  - do not use the elevators if possible



### After The Storm / 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 surroundings for damage.



For more information visit:

**Alberta Municipal Affairs**

[http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema/pdf/2005\\_tornadoes.pdf](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema/pdf/2005_tornadoes.pdf)

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**Environment Canada – National Weather Service**

[http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada_e.html)