
SAFETY ADVISORY

Tornado warning...now what?

Do you know what to do when Environment Canada issues a tornado warning?

- A funnel cloud is the early development of a tornado. Funnel clouds do not touch the ground.
- A tornado is when there is enough energy for the cloud to contact the ground and create enough force to cause damage.
- Environment Canada states that tornado's usually hit in the afternoon or evening.

What can you do if you're in the tornado's path?

- Take shelter in a room on the ground floor such as a hallway, closet, or washroom. If there is a basement, seek shelter there.
- Stay clear of outside walls, windows and doors.
- While on campus, take the stairs to get to a basement or ground floor. Do not use the elevators. Emergency personnel (e.g. Wardens, Campus Security, Police, etc.) may escort you to the safest place.
- If you are in a vehicle, stop and get to a building immediately. You are not safe in a vehicle.
- If you are on a highway, get into a ditch and lie as flat as possible. It is not advisable to attempt to outrun the tornado.
- If you are outdoors away from shelter, stay away from tall objects. Take shelter in low-laying areas.

Weather "Watch" vs. "Warning"

- A "watch" is the possibility of the weather event occurring. A "warning" is when you must stop what you are doing and take cover.
- The "watch" phase is the best time to call friends, family members, speak with coworkers, and be a good neighbor to your community. Let others know there could be dangerous weather in the area. Get your 72hr kit ready!

Signs of a tornado

- Severe thunderstorms, with frequent thunder and lightning
- Extremely dark sky with green or yellow clouds
- Whistling sound
- A funnel cloud at the base of a thunder cloud behind heavy rain or hail



A Map of Canada's "Tornado Alley".

Environment Canada | 2010/05

DID YOU KNOW?

ON JUNE 30TH, 1912 AT 4:50 P.M., A TORNADO DEVASTATED REGINA. IT REMAINS THE DEADLIEST TORNADO IN CANADIAN HISTORY WITH A TOTAL OF 28 FATALITIES.

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