

TORNADOES

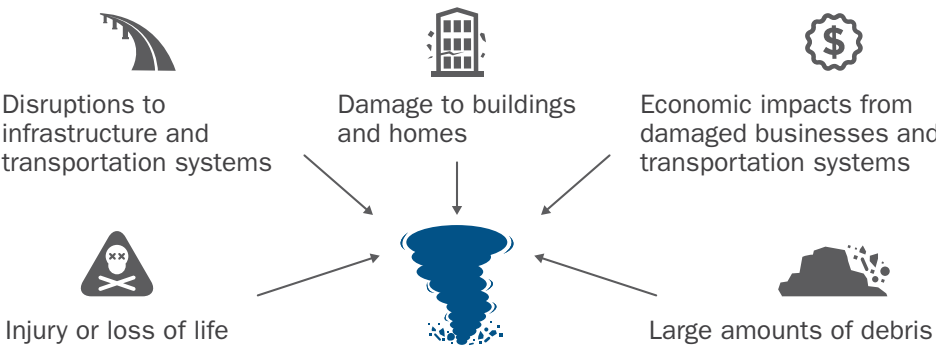
Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. They can happen at any time of the year, at any time of the day or night, and can bring winds over 200 mph.

CAUSES










Tornadoes form when warm, humid air collides with cold, dry air. This can occur in any state in the US.

IMPACTS








Reducing Risk

-  Create a family plan and conduct tornado drills each season
-  Designate or build a safe area in the home, office, and/or school as a shelter
-  Know the difference between a tornado watch (a tornado is possible) and a warning (a tornado is already occurring or will occur soon)
-  Work with your local building department to strengthen your home's roof and wall connections, as well as windows and doors to protect your building envelope

-  Take shelter in a building with strong walls and roof system. If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area a safe distance away from a mobile home
-  If in a car, do not stop under bridges or block roadways
-  Learn danger signs, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud; an approaching cloud of debris; or a loud roar – like a freight train



How Local Officials Can Reduce My Risk

-  Provide an alert system with sirens; familiarize residents with regularly scheduled tests
-  Provide local safe rooms
-  Conduct outreach on tornado safety
-  Adopt stricter building codes
-  Become a StormReady community through the National Weather Service

Additional Resources

Ready.gov
www.ready.gov/tornadoes

FEMA P-320 - Building a Safe Room for your Home or Small Business
www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_taking-shelter-from-the-storm_p-320.pdf

Contact your local or state emergency management department for more information on tornado risk reduction.

