

# Tornado

*Tornadoes are violent, rotating cylinders that can have wind speeds in excess of 300 mph, be more than a mile wide, and cover approximately 50 miles during destruction. They can appear suddenly and with little warning.*

## Terms to Know:

- ◆ **Tornado Watch:** Conditions are right to have a tornado. Maintain a close watch for changes in the sky.
- ◆ **Tornado Warning:** This means there is an actual tornado reported or radar indicates one could develop within a few minutes.

## Before a Tornado:

- ◆ In case of evacuation, such as for post-tornado flooding, make sure that preparedness kits are portable.
- ◆ Know and review all safety and evacuation plans.
- ◆ Purchase a weather radio and have more than one way to get weather alerts.

## During a Tornado:

- ◆ Basements, inner rooms and storm cellars provide optimal protection.
- ◆ Stay away from doors and windows. Stay in the center of the room.
- ◆ If in a vehicle, get out and go into a strong building if possible. If not, lie in a ditch or low area and cover your head.
- ◆ Do NOT go park at underpasses. Wind speeds increase and can cause serious injuries.
- ◆ If you live in a mobile home, get out immediately. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation.
- ◆ Listen to the radio, watch television reports or monitor websites and social media for weather updates and further instructions.

## After a Tornado:

- ◆ Stay out of damaged buildings.
- ◆ Help others, especially those that might be trapped or injured.
- ◆ Stay away from downed power lines.
- ◆ Be aware of possible water, gas or oil leaks.
- ◆ Monitor radio, television, website or social media reports for further instructions.

