

Tornadoes



CERT Basic Training Hazards

A Tornado Is...

- Violently rotating column of air:
 - Extending between, and in contact with, cloud and earth's surface
 - May be accompanied by winds in excess of 200 miles per hour



Tornado Risks

- Rip trees apart
- Destroy buildings
- Uproot structures and objects
- Send debris and glass flying
- Overturn cars and mobile homes



Tornado Facts

- Occur in every state
- About 800 reported every year
- About 180 people killed every year
- Season runs March – August, but tornadoes can occur any time of year
- Can occur any time of day but most likely to occur 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Annual damage can be hundreds of millions

Fujita Wind-Damage Scale

- Measures tornado strength
- Six levels:
 - F0: Light damage
 - F1: Moderate damage
 - F2: Considerable damage
 - F3: Severe damage
 - F4: Devastating damage
 - F5: Incredible damage

Tornado Preparedness

- Know the risk
- Identify potential shelter areas
- Learn the community's warning system
- Conduct family tornado drills

Tornado Warning Signs

- High winds
- Very large hail



During a Tornado

- Keep windows and doors closed and stay away from them
- Use shielding and protective clothing
 - Furniture
 - Blankets
 - Bike helmets
- Listen to EAS or NOAA Weather Radio

After a Tornado

- Avoid fallen power lines or broken utility lines
- Stay out of damaged areas
- Stay out of damaged buildings
- Use a flashlight to look for damage
- Turn off utilities
- Reserve telephone for emergencies