



Scenario Two: Tornado Warning

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

Scenario: Your family has settled down for a meal together. Outside, rain suddenly erupts into a heavy downpour. Thunder booms as lightning illuminates the sky. The sky turns an eerie grayish color. Large hail begins to pound on your rooftop. A Tornado Warning has been issued for much of the county you live in. You hear a roar, like a freight train, that begins to get louder as it approaches.

Discussion Questions:

1. What ways can you be alerted of a Tornado Warning? Do you have a weather-alert radio?
2. What actions should you take if you see a tornado nearing your home? What if you were in your car?
3. Do you have a safe room designated in your home for such an emergency? What supplies have you stocked in your safe room?
4. If phone lines and cellular towers have been damaged, how will your family members communicate with each other after a tornado strikes?
5. Do you have a designated meeting area identified where your family can meet if you had to leave your house?
6. Does anyone in your family have any special needs (such as medical, emotional, or physical needs, or limited English proficiency) that might present challenges if you must stay at a shelter? If so, have you prepared a special plan for them?
7. Do you have a plan to stay with family or friends if you need to evacuate your home?
8. Do you know proper safety procedure after a tornado?

Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, go to <https://community.fema.gov/take-action/hazards>. With your loved ones, discuss what steps you think that you should take to improve your safety in the event such a tragedy occurs.

Helpful Links

To learn more about tornado preparedness, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>