

How Do I Know if a Tornado is Coming?

In your home, the best means of monitoring severe weather is to have a NOAA All-Hazards Radio. This will alert you to weather warnings, transmitted direct from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Norman.

Additional information on severe weather as it is happening is available by watching any of our local television stations.

And if you are outdoors and away from radios and television, the City of Moore operates a network of Outdoor Warning Devices (“tornado sirens”) which are activated only when tornadic conditions are directly threatening the City.



Need assistance in programming your All-Hazards radio? Call us...we'll be glad to help!

What the City Does

The City's Emergency Management & Communications Department monitors all hazards that could threaten the safety of residents and guests of our City, in close cooperation with the National Weather Service, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, Oklahoma Homeland Security Office, and others.

When conditions favor the development of severe thunderstorms, the City deploys a cadre of trained citizen observers—"storm spotters"—who watch the skies and report conditions to the City's Emergency Operations Center. If necessary, the City's Outdoor Warning System is activated and the severe weather information shared with the Weather Service.

And if there is damage within the City, all of our various departments swing into action providing and coordinating rescue, emergency medical treatment, fire suppression, physical security, road clearing, restoration of utilities, and ultimately doing those tasks necessary to return the community back to normal.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Gayland Kitch OCEM
Director

Emergency Management & Communications
The City of Moore

301 N. Broadway
Moore, Oklahoma 73160

405-793-4477 voice

405-793-5063 fax

emergmt@cityofmoore.com



City of Moore
Oklahoma

Sheltering from Severe Storms & Tornadoes In Moore



Protecting Your Family from Nature's Fury

When There is a Tornado, Where Do I Take Shelter?

Part of the heritage of the City of Moore is that—



A violent F-5 tornado crossing I-35 in Moore on May 3, 1999.

like most other cities & towns in the southern plains—we have been struck by tornadoes.

So...where does one go to take shelter and increase your odds of survival?

Sheltering-in-Place

Unless you are in a mobile home or a portable building, normally the best place to take shelter is "in-place", right where you are.

The best place to take shelter is in a basement or a below-ground location. Unfortunately, few homes in Moore have basements, and only about 10% or less have below-ground storm shelters. This in mind, shelter can also normally be taken above ground. Again, the object is to try to stop the wind-driven missiles, and minimize your exposure to walls that are exposed to the strongest winds.

To take shelter above ground, choose a location with as many walls between you and the outside world as possible. This helps to minimize the possibility of being next to a wall failing from direct winds, and also allows the walls to slow or stop the missiles. Choose a small room, which tends to be stronger. Try to get under something sturdy, like a desk, and cover yourself with heavy blankets or coats. Again, you're trying to protect yourself from flying debris, failing walls, and falling items.

A caution: When evaluating potential shelter locations, be sure to look UP as well. If you're sheltering in a closet, you certainly won't want to have large, heavy items on the shelves above you.

Schools

All of the schools in the Moore Public School district have plans - coordinated with the Emergency Management office of the City - for monitoring severe weather conditions and for placing students and staff into shelter during severe weather events.

Businesses

It is highly advantageous for all business to have disaster plans for their facilities. It is also incumbent on each and every individual person to know where to take shelter in places frequented. The same rules apply as at home...as far down and as far inside as you can get, staying away from long-span roofs and windows.

Business owners and managers can contact the Emergency Management Department for assistance in developing their disaster plans.

Non-Desirable Locations

If you live in a mobile home or a structurally weak house, then we certainly would hope that you plan to leave your home and find shelter in a better location. This requires advance planning on your part! It also requires keeping a much sharper eye to deteriorating weather conditions! Have a family emergency plan, and don't hesitate in activating it.

If your plan is to leave your home for better shelter, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL TORNADO WARNINGS ARE ISSUED** to leave for shelter!

No "Community" Shelters?

The City of Moore has no community (or "public") tornado shelters. This is due to two factors:

- Overall, people may face less risk by taking shelter in a reasonably-well constructed residence!
- There is no public building in Moore which has a suitable location for a shelter.

Yes, for those living in a traditionally constructed house, there is less overall risk by sheltering-in-place than by going to a community shelter. The average tornado warning time is generally only 10-15 minutes. That's just not enough time for a person to receive the warning, make a conscious decision to leave their home, gather the few things needed (family, keys, etc.), lock the house, get into the car, drive to a shelter (including possibly experiencing a traffic jam of others trying to get to the same shelter!), get out of the car, and make the way into the community shelter. In this scenario, there's a far greater likelihood of getting caught in your car when the tornado strikes! And experience proves that cars are **NOT** the place you want to be during severe weather events!



What is left of a pickup, bent around a tree, after the May 3, 1999 tornado.

"In homes or small buildings, go to the basement (if available) or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris."