



# TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

**WATCH:** is issued when conditions are favorable for a tornado to form. Continue to monitor your weather radio and television. Remind students and staff of what a watch is and where the safest place within the school is located.

**WARNING:** Imminent danger. A tornado or funnel cloud has been indicated by radar or sighted by a storm spotter. Take shelter immediately.

## BEFORE

- Identify safe areas within the school with the help of local public safety and emergency management personnel.
- Make sure that each classroom has a map clearly marking the tornado safety area.
- Develop a system for informing students and staff a tornado warning has been issued. Using the fire bell can be confusing.
- Practice tornado sheltering drills at least twice a year; in the spring and fall. Remember there is a potential threat of tornados throughout the year.
- Monitor the weather radio and television.
- Bolt down all bookcases, shelves and file cabinets. This will keep these items from shifting during severe weather.
- Keep first aid supplies current and convenient.

## DURING (A WATCH BECOMES A WARNING)

- Move all students from all temporary or mobile classrooms to the main building.
- Get to the lowest most interior level of the facility and assume a tornado safe position.
- Avoid locations with wide span roofing and glass such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, and sanctuaries.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as workbench, heavy table or desk.
- Take roll while moving students to the shelter area.
- Stay in the tornado safe position until the "all clear" is given.

## IF OUTDOORS OR IN A VEHICLE

- Do not stay in vehicle.
- If at all possible get into a building.
- If shelter is not available or there is no time to reach shelter, lie in a ditch or low lying area. Be aware of the potential for flooding. Do not take shelter under an overpass.
- Avoid utility poles and overhead wires.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.

## AFTER

- Give first aid when appropriate. Do not try to move seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Call 911 or emergency services.
- Keep in mind there may be downed power lines or damage to other utilities that can be a potential hazard.
- Listen to the radio/television for emergency information.