



## The First Ten Plays

### REDUCING YOUR THREAT FROM TORNADOES\*

- Buy, install and learn about your NOAA Weather Radio.
- Know the difference between a tornado “watch” and a “warning.” Remember, with a “watch” you have time. With a warning...you act now.
- Watch local Emergency Alert Stations for messages and also the Weather Channel on your TV. Learn about radar and how to read it for your area.
- If you are outdoors, be aware of telltale signs like greenish or green/black skies, sudden quietness after winds, a sudden drop in temperature (a possible warning of serious hail), clouds moving very quickly and rotating towards a single area in the sky, debris dropping from the above, and funnels. By the time you hear the train sound the tornado is already there.
- Don't try to outthink a tornado. If traveling, go to the right or left of its path, if you can. Remember, you can't out run or out drive most tornadoes. If the tornado is upon you, get out of the car and lay flat in a ditch, or go into a culvert if it is not raining.
- In tornado prone areas have a shelter already in place. Some interesting manufacturers of such havens are found at:  
<http://www.safehavenshelters.biz/>  
<http://www.americanstormshelters.com/>
- Teach the entire family to go to a safe location if indoors, preferably a basement or a room deep in the interior, away from windows and heavy objects that can topple, and have protection from flying debris. Roll into fetal position, get under a heavy desk or bench if available, and make yourself as compact as possible. Don't open windows or doors. To help teach children learn go to:  
[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/lesson116.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson116.shtml)
- If you are a manufacturer, architect, or designer of homes, use FEMA 431 guidance--*Tornado Protection - Selecting Refuge Areas in Buildings*, and FEMA 361, *Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters (July 2000)*
- There are also safe room instructions for strengthening your mobile home just in case you can't get out in time. Get FEMA 320 *Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your House*  
<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1536>
- Read more guidance on tornadoes at FEMA at:  
<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/tornadoes.shtml>

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\* These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.