

# FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL-SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONSIDERATIONS FOR TORNADOES

Tornadoes are nature's **most** violent storms. They can appear without warning and be invisible until dust and debris are picked up or a funnel cloud appears. Be prepared to act quickly. Planning and practicing specifically how and where you take shelter is a matter of survival. Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year, making advance preparation vitally important.

### PREPARE

- ❖ Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a tornado hazard. A **tornado watch** means a tornado is possible in your area. A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been spotted in your area, and you need to take shelter immediately.
- ❖ Determine in advance where you will take shelter in case of a tornado warning. Storm cellars or basements provide the best protection.
- ❖ If underground shelter is not available, go into an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- ❖ In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- ❖ Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they attract debris.
- ❖ A vehicle, trailer or mobile home does not provide good protection. Plan to go quickly to a building with a strong foundation, if possible.
- ❖ If shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.

### PLAN

- ❖ If local authorities issue a tornado warning or if you see a funnel cloud, take shelter immediately.
- ❖ Stay in the shelter location until the danger has passed.



### STAY INFORMED

- ❖ Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should listen to NOAA Weather Radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.
- ❖ After a tornado, be sure to remain out of damaged buildings and stay clear of downed power lines.
- ❖ Help injured or trapped people. Check on others who may require special assistance, such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities.



### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Do you use communication devices?
- ❖ Do you depend on accessible transportation to get to work or to other places in your community?
- ❖ Do you receive medical treatments (e.g. dialysis) on a regular basis?
- ❖ Do you need assistance with personal care?
- ❖ Do you rely on electrical equipment or other durable equipment?
- ❖ Do you use mobility aids such as a walker, cane, or a wheelchair?
- ❖ Do you have a service animal?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, go to: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org) for more information.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Severe Weather Awareness Week for the state of Georgia occurs within the first or second week of February. Topics to be covered include: **Family Preparedness, Thunderstorm Safety, Tornado Safety (Statewide Tornado Drill), Lightning Safety and Flooding.**

### WEB RESOURCES

- [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov)
- [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov)
- [www.fema.ga.gov](http://www.fema.ga.gov)
- [www.gachi.org](http://www.gachi.org)
- <http://ada.georgia.gov>
- [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)