



Suggested Tornado Safety Rules:

Before a Tornado:

Stay informed: listen to your Weather Alert Radio; use TV/radio as backups. Consider signing up for a weather alert smartphone app as yet another way to receive warnings.

Hurricanes do not directly affect Madison County. We feel their indirect effects as thunderstorms, wind, floods, hail, lightning, and tornadoes. Be alert and cautious when we have hurricanes to hit the Gulf Coast. It will take a while for the severe weather to get up to us in Huntsville, but the key is being prepared.

Select the best available protective area at home, work, school, and out of doors; choose the most interior small rooms on the lowest floor; underground (but not the crawl space) is best. Get under sturdy furniture and cover up with a blanket, etc. Most injuries are caused by flying debris; put as many barriers (walls and floors) and padding (blankets, coat or mattress) as possible between you and the tornado. Crouch down and keep as low as possible.

During a Tornado Watch:

Monitor the situation by tuning your radio or TV set to one of the local stations and monitor a weather radio. Consider signing up for a weather alert smartphone app as yet another way to receive warnings.

When a Watch is issued, listen to broadcast advisories and be ready to take cover. Have a battery powered light and radio ready and keep family members within earshot. Keep on hand emergency supplies: a three-day supply of food, water, and other necessities. Keep your car keys on you; should a tornado strike, your car may still be operable but your keys would be lost in the rubble.

Be very CAUTIOUS: Tornadoes develop in thunderstorms. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are frequently issued during Tornado Watches. Be sure to stay alert.

Be prepared to take cover immediately should a warning be issued.

Take action immediately when you hear the tornado warning sirens. They are tested the first Wednesday of every month at noon if the weather is good and the sky is clear. As an alternative, the following Wednesday will be used. If the weather again causes cancellation of the test, there will be no test until the following month. If you hear them otherwise, take immediate action.

Take cover within 60 seconds of a tornado warning. Sixty-two percent of those killed by tornadoes die in the first five minutes after a warning is issued.

Get out of cars and mobile homes; take cover in a ditch if there is no place or no time to go elsewhere. Take cover where you are out of the wind.

Travel to better protection when the weather is still good; after severe weather arrives, stay put. Travel to shelter during a Watch, not a Warning. During the Warning, when wind, flying debris and lightning abound, you are at greater risk being outside than you are staying put. If you go elsewhere, go before the threat arrives.

Observe the weather being especially alert to weather developments to the South and West.

Monitor television and radio to obtain weather information.



During a Tornado Warning:

Take cover immediately where you are.

Do not travel in an automobile. Abandon your vehicle if you are caught in a violent storm. Do not try to outrun or drive away from a tornado.

Put into practice your individual or your employer's severe weather plan.

After a Tornado

Remain in a protective area until you are absolutely certain it is safe to exit. Tornadoes often occur in families consisting of several tornadoes.

Account for all family members and neighbors.

Notify authorities.

Do not touch or get near the vicinity of downed power lines.

Render first aid if you can, stay away from damaged area, travel only if necessary, use telephones only for emergencies.

Do not light candles or matches until you are certain that there are no leaking or broken gas lines. If you smell gas, open windows and doors; turn off the gas at the main service valve on the meter if you can; leave the building immediately; notify utilities as soon as possible.

If flooding has occurred or electrical wires and appliances are open to the elements, turn off the main electrical power circuit breaker. Do not use any electrical appliance until they are dry and have been inspected for safe operation.