

Know the difference between a watch and a warning

Tornado Watch Means

NWS meteorologists have determined that tornadoes are possible in your area. You should monitor the weather closely.

Tornado Warning Means

NWS meteorologists have determined that a tornado is occurring, or likely to occur within minutes, in the specified area. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

Before a Tornado Watch is issued

You should have some basic preparedness done before storms are an issue. Basic preparedness will be the same for any hazard. Things like preparing Go-Kits for each member of the family including pets. For more information on basic preparedness steps visit ready.gov

When a Tornado Watch is issued

Monitor the weather closely as things change quickly in Oklahoma!

Have 3 ways to get weather information and warnings. Your phone only counts as 1 way no matter how many ways you get information on it.

Check your supplies and kits.

Review family emergency plan and family communications plan.

Prepare your shelter or refuge area.

Touch base with the family out of state contact to let them know you are under a watch.

NWS Norman
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/>

NWS Weather Ready Nation
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/tornado/prepare.shtml>

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM)
<http://www.ok.gov/oem/>

Ready.gov
<http://www.ready.gov/>

Red Cross Preparedness Resources
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library>

Local Emergency Management

City of AwadARKO

Agency

405-247-2481

Phone Number

Creating resiliency throughout the Southwest Region of Oklahoma

Southwest Oklahoma Emergency Management



**Severe
Weather
Awareness**

**Before the Storm:
Tornado
Preparedness**

Selecting a shelter or refuge area

It is critical to know in advance where you will seek shelter if a tornado warning is issued.

Not only at home but you must consider available shelter or refuge when you are away from home.

Know where you will shelter at work, school, and other places you visit regularly.

A tornado shelter or safe room, either above or below ground is the safest place to seek shelter.

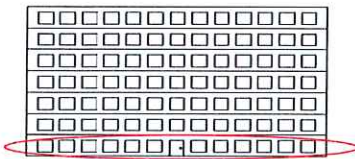
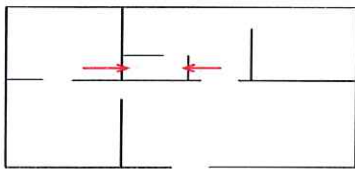
You can shelter or seek refuge safely in a sturdy building by following basic guidelines.

If a safe room or tornado shelter is not available use the guidance provided to select a refuge area.

GET IN - Get inside, get as far in the middle of the building as possible. Put as many walls or barriers between you and the outside walls as possible.

GET DOWN - Get underground or on the lowest floor possible.

COVER UP - Flying and falling debris are a storm's number one killer. Use pillows, blankets, coats, helmets, and anything you can to cover up and protect your head and body from flying debris.



Things to have in shelter or refuge area

Have helmets, coats, or blankets available to protect from flying and falling debris.

Have a spare set of sneakers for each member of the family in case you run to shelter without shoes on.

Have a whistle or horn to make noise with in case you are trapped.

Have water and snacks handy in case you are trapped.

Have a battery operated radio.



Have a flashlight and extra batteries.

Have a crate for each pet as well as a leash.

Have a first aid kit.



Using Social Media



Never **count** on social media for warnings. Have other ways to get warnings. Have a weather radio, watch local news media, or receive alerts on your phone.

Warnings could get buried in your news feed so that you don't see them and people could be publishing the wrong information.

Some jurisdictions will post or share warning information on their social media accounts in the hope that people will share the information and increase awareness of the risk. Only trust and share information from official trusted sources like your local emergency management or National Weather Service.

You are **encouraged** to share official information including watches and warnings on social media as it helps to make sure more people are aware of the risk. It is recommended that you make sure your friends and loved ones saw your post as again, it can get buried in their timeline or missed.

Other things to consider

If you have a storm shelter or safe room, be sure to register it with your local community emergency management or fire department.

Make sure family and friends know where in your home you will seek shelter if you do not have a storm shelter or safe room.

Have a family communications plan !



How will your community communicate with you before, during, and after an emergency. Does your community have a mass notification system or a website. Find out what resources your community has and how they will be used by contacting your local emergency manager.

If family members or friends are in a watch area give them a call or text to make sure they are aware of the watch. Encourage them to take it seriously. Often people who get hurt during a storm were not aware there was a watch. Or, they didn't want to shelter unless they are sure they need to. People will often shelter if loved ones are asking them to.

Consider where you and your family would stay if your home was damaged or destroyed. Don't forget to consider family pets!

If you have insurance make sure you understand your policy and that you have the coverage that you need.

Talk to your child's school and find out more about their plans and what to expect if the school is impacted by a tornado.

Don't forget to have a plan for when you are at work or away from home!