

Tornado Sheltering Protocol

This playbook outlines the steps to find and utilize a safe shelter location during a tornado, with considerations for individuals without basement access. It provides essential safety practices to protect oneself during such events.

Step 1: **Preparation**

Identify the safest shelter location in your home or nearby buildings ahead of time. Basements, storm cellars, or an interior room on the lowest floor without windows are ideal. Prepare this space with emergency supplies such as food, water, a first aid kit, flashlights, and a whistle.

Step 2: **Alertness**

Stay informed about weather conditions using a weather radio, smartphone apps, or television news. Be ready to move to your shelter location quickly if a tornado watch or warning is issued.

Step 3: **Relocation**

Upon receiving a tornado warning, immediately go to your predetermined shelter spot. If you are in a building without a basement, move to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a bathroom, closet, or hallway.

Step 4: **Protection**

Once in the shelter location, protect yourself from flying debris. Use heavy furniture, mattresses, or blankets for cover. Crouch down and cover your head and neck with your arms.

Step 5: **Accountability**

If sharing the shelter with others, account for everyone's presence. Keep pets on a leash or in a carrier, and ensure all family members or cohabitants are aware of the shelter location.

Step 6: **Aftermath**

Remain in the shelter until official sources announce that the tornado has passed. Be cautious when exiting the shelter as there may be debris and structural damage.

General Notes

Alternative Shelter

If you don't have access to a suitable shelter in your home, plan to use a nearby public shelter, if available, or seek shelter in a sturdy building.

Stay Updated

Regularly review and practice your tornado shelter plan, especially during tornado season, to ensure all individuals in your household understand what to do.

Emergency Kit

Keep your emergency kit updated with supplies such as medications, special items for babies, elderly, or disabled family members, and copies of important documents.

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