WEATHER & DISASTERS

Tornado & hurricane shelter planning

Tornadoes require rapid wind shelter. Hurricanes may require evacuation well before arrival. Plan for the place you are visiting.

> Follow evacuation orders and local warnings. Shelter choice depends on the hazard, not the storm's name.

Plan before a watch

- Choose tornado shelter at home, work and school. Arrange a sturdy destination for anyone in a mobile home or temporary structure.
- When visiting hurricane-prone areas, learn the evacuation zone, official routes, lodging alternatives and how to receive local alerts.
- Plan transport for people needing assistance and a destination accommodating pets. Keep medicines, identification, contacts and charging equipment together.

Take tornado shelter

- When a warning affects you, go promptly to a basement, designated safe room or small interior room on the lowest appropriate floor.
- Keep away from glass and protect the head and neck. Follow your workplace or school's assigned shelter and accountability process.
- Cars, tents and mobile homes are poor protection. Reach a sturdy building before dangerous conditions arrive; never shelter beneath an overpass.

Act on hurricane instructions

- If ordered to evacuate, leave by the recommended route while usable. Do not stay to protect possessions.
- If instructed to remain, shelter away from windows and receive updates. Storm surge or rising water may require a different location.
- Do not go outside during the eye or a lull. Dangerous winds can return from another direction. Never drive into floodwater.

Return and recovery

- Wait for permission to return. Road access, utilities and buildings may remain unsafe after the wind subsides.
- Keep away from fallen wires, unstable structures and water around electrical equipment. Avoid unnecessary travel through response areas.
- Contact your trusted person after reaching safety. Record damage only when safe and review your next shelter or evacuation plan.

Sources & further guidance

National Weather Service - hurricane actions | www.weather.gov
CDC - hurricane preparation | www.cdc.gov
CDC - tornado preparation | www.cdc.gov