

# Stay Safe during Tornado Season

Illinois is one of the top 5 states for tornado strikes. Tornadoes can form in a few minutes. Results are damage, injury and death.

Most teens have networking ability to keep you safe. Let them help you form a severe weather plan.

- 1. Choose a safe place to gather in your home if a tornado strikes.** A basement or cellar is best. A room or hallway on the lowest level is next best. Bathrooms and closets are also good. Stay away from windows.
- 2. Find a close, safe shelter outside of your home if you live in a mobile home.** Mobile homes are not safe during a tornado. Fifty-percent of deaths from tornados happen in mobile homes.
- 3. Know your area's weather patterns.** Spring and summer bring severe weather and tornadoes. Listen to the radio and TV for a Tornado Watch or Tornado Warning. Log onto the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov). Use your NOAA weather alert radio or NOAA phone app.

- 4. Practice a home tornado drill each spring.** *Be serious.* Your teen can tell siblings where to go and what to do. Instruct them to bring a pillow or cushion to cover their head and neck.
- 5. Turn on your NOAA weather alert radio at night.** You may not hear the city alert siren while asleep. The weather radio makes a loud noise when a weather alert is issued. You will learn where a tornado has touched down and the towns in danger.
- 6. Put together a disaster kit.** Include flashlights, fresh batteries, candles, matches, and bottled water. Do not forget a battery operated radio. Decide what else your family would need if you had no electricity for a few hours.
- 7. Keep all cell phones charged and nearby.** Have your teens' friends call if they hear an alert.

## Tornado Watch means

*it is possible for a tornado to develop.* Check the weather - often. Turn on your weather alert radio.

## Tornado Warning means

*a tornado has been sighted in your area.* Grab your weather alert radio. Take shelter – **now**.



*Photo of the tornado that struck Springfield, IL on March 12, 2006.*

*Brought to you by Parent Help Line at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital to help keep kids safe, healthy and happy.*



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.  
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week  
[www.parenthelpline.org](http://www.parenthelpline.org)



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