



Live Assured

Protect Yourself Before & During a Tornado

While tornados aren't typically a concern for those who live in the Northeast, you never know what Mother Nature has in store. To ensure that you and your family are ready to face one of these catastrophes, follow these tips before, during, and after the storm.

Know the warning signs.

Tornados are usually preceded by the following weather patterns:

- Dark skies with a greenish tint
- Dark, low-lying clouds
- Rain and large hail
- Loud thunder

During the Storm.

At the first notice of a tornado, seek shelter immediately.

- The safest place is in a basement or underground shelter. Stay away from windows.
- If your home does not have a basement, seek shelter in a closet or bathroom on ground level, as close to the center of your house as possible. Cover yourself with cushions, pillows, or blankets to provide extra protection against flying debris.
- If you live you in a mobile home, seek shelter in the basement of a nearby establishment. Even mobile homes that have been tied-down cannot withstand the strong winds of a tornado.
- If you're outside during a tornado, seek shelter immediately. Never try to outrun a tornado on foot, as you could be hit by flying debris.
- If you are in an apartment building or other commercial building with multiple floors and limited basement access, the safest location is near an elevator shaft or in a stairwell.

After the Storm

Even after the tornado is over, the state of emergency is not.

- Since tornadoes can happen in multiples, be certain that the storm is over before evacuating your shelter. If possible, listen to the National Weather Service for updates and clearances.
- Once you evacuate your shelter, be alert to your surroundings. The aftermath of a tornado can include collapsed or weakened buildings, downed power lines, and gas-line breaks.
- It could take some time for your community to become functional again. Have an emergency kit that contains at least the following:
 - o 3-day supply of food and water, including for your pets
 - o Flashlight
 - o Battery-operated radio
 - o Extra batteries
 - o Toiletry items
 - o 3-day supply of medications
 - o Copies of personal documents
 - o Extra blankets, clothes, and outerwear
 - o Cell phone chargers

For more information regarding natural disaster preparedness, log onto www.ready.gov. And be sure to discuss your homeowners or renters insurance policy with your independent agent; you may not be able to predict mother nature, but you can certainly Live Assured that Preferred Mutual has got you covered.

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