



NIP GROUP



The Basics of Tornado Preparedness

Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent and unpredictable weather phenomena. Understanding their dangers and preparing effectively can significantly improve your chances of staying safe. Here's a comprehensive overview:

Dangers of Tornadoes

1. **High Winds:** Tornadoes can produce winds exceeding 300 mph (480 km/h). These extreme winds can cause catastrophic damage, uprooting trees, destroying buildings, and tossing debris long distances.
2. **Flying Debris:** Tornadoes often lift and carry debris, which can become dangerous projectiles. This debris can cause injury or death, even if you're not directly hit by the tornado.
3. **Structural Damage:** Tornadoes can demolish entire buildings and infrastructure, leaving a path of destruction that can be difficult and costly to rebuild.
4. **Injury Risks:** Besides the immediate physical impact of tornado winds and debris, injuries from falling objects, collapsing structures, and secondary effects (like fires or gas leaks) are common.
5. **Flooding:** Tornadoes can sometimes spawn heavy rainfall or lead to flooding due to the damage to drainage systems, although this is not always the case.
6. **Psychological Impact:** The trauma from experiencing or witnessing a tornado can have long-lasting psychological effects, including PTSD, anxiety, and depression.

Preparation for Tornadoes

1. **Stay Informed:**
 - **Weather Alerts:** Sign up for local weather alerts through apps, radio, or TV. Weather Service apps and NOAA Weather Radio are essential tools.
 - **Know the Signs:** Be aware of tornado warning signs, such as a dark, greenish-colored sky, large, low-lying, and dark-colored clouds, and a loud, continuous roar or rumble.
2. **Create a Plan:**
 - **Safe Room:** Identify a safe location in your facility where you can take shelter during a tornado, such as a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.



NIP GROUP

info@nipgroup.com • 800.446.7647 • www.nipgroup.com



- Departmental Plan: Develop and practice a tornado safety plan with your team. Ensure everyone knows where to go and what to do in case of a tornado.

3. Emergency Kit:

- Essentials: Include non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries, and a first-aid kit.

4. Facility Preparation:

- Reinforce Structures: Strengthen your facility by securing heavy furniture and appliances to walls and reinforcing roof trusses.
- Safe Room: Ensure your designated safe room is stocked with essentials and easily accessible.

5. During a Tornado:

- Seek Shelter: Immediately move to your pre-designated safe room or shelter.
- Protect Yourself: Use heavy furniture to protect yourself from debris. Cover your head and neck.
- Stay Informed: Continue to listen for updates and information about the tornado's path and duration.

6. After a Tornado:

- Check for Injuries: Attend to any injuries and seek medical help if needed.
- Avoid Hazards: Stay away from downed power lines, damaged structures, and areas where there may be gas leaks or other hazards.
- Follow Instructions: Listen to local authorities for guidance on safety and recovery.

Preparation can make a crucial difference in a tornado's aftermath. The key is to be proactive and informed, ensuring that you and your loved ones have the best chance of staying safe.

