

School Crisis Planning: The Parent Factor

TORNADO DRILLS

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING

Schools have regular tornado drills that teach students the sound of a tornado alarm, how to exit the classroom single-file, and how to sit to avoid being hurt by broken glass or other flying objects. Schools usually predetermine which areas in the school building are safest, such as a windowless interior hallway on the ground floor. *Below are tips you can use to plan for tornado drills, at home, with your family, to help teach emergency preparedness at home and school.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

Develop a safety plan for you and your family for home, work, school and when outdoors. Make sure you practice the plan. Know where you can take shelter in a matter of seconds, and practice a family tornado drill at least once a year.

Assemble a Tornado Safety Kit Containing:

- ✔ First aid kit and essential medications
- ✔ Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ✔ Candles and matches
- ✔ Canned food and manual can opener
- ✔ Bottled water
- ✔ Sturdy shoes and work gloves
- ✔ Baby formula, diapers, pet food, etc.

Selecting a Safe Area

Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. Safe areas are basements, bathrooms, closets or hallways on the lowest floor. **Stay away from windows.** When choosing safe areas, **remember that tornadoes strike at all hours.** Safe places need to be **easy** to get to and **uncluttered** in case of darkness when people may not be fully aware or alert. **If you are in a high-rise building,** you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.

It's Up to You

The preparedness information in this flyer, combined with timely severe weather watches and warnings, could save your families lives in the event a tornado threatens your area.

Conduct a Tornado Drill at Home with Family

- ✔ Announce the start of the drill.
- ✔ Family members should act as though a tornado warning has been issued for the immediate area or a tornado has been sighted nearby. They should move as quickly as possible to the designated tornado shelter.
- ✔ Once family members reach safe areas they should crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down, and cover their heads with their hands.
- ✔ After everyone is in the protective position, announce the drill is over and the tornado has passed.
- ✔ When the drill is over, discuss the drill and ways to improve it, including notification, safe areas and ways to get to them.

Actions for Your Family

- ✔ Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
- ✔ Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- ✔ Teach children how and when to call 911.
- ✔ Learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid.
- ✔ Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your family needs for at least (3) days.

Keep an emergency supply kit in the trunk of your car.

Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

FEMA: www.fema.gov

Do 1 Thing: www.do1thing.org