Tornadoes



Display Slide To-0



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http://rst.gsfc.nasa.gov/Sect14/tornado.jpg

CONTENT

Tornadoes

Tell the participants that <u>tornadoes</u> are powerful, circular windstorms that may be accompanied by winds in excess of 200 miles per hour. Tornadoes typically develop during severe thunderstorms and may range in width from several hundred yards to more than a mile across.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content
Tornado Risks 🗤 🔤	Tornado Risks
 Rip trees apart Destroy buildings Uproot structures and objects Send debris and glass flying Overtum cars and mobile homes Overtum cars and mobile To a structure of the st	 Explain that tornadoes pose a high risk because the low atmospheric pressure, combined with high wind velocity, can: Rip trees apart Destroy buildings Uproot structures and objects Send debris and glass flying Overturn cars and mobile homes
Tornado Facts In The	Tornado Facts
 Occur in every state About 800 reported every year About 180 people killed every year Season runs March – August but tornados can occur any time of year Can occur any time of day but most likely to occur 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Annual damage can be hundreds of millions 	Point out that while tornadoes have been reported in every state, they are most prevalent east of the Colorado-Wyoming-New Mexico area. Most frequently, tornadoes are found in the area from Kansas to Kentucky, the Great Plains, and the Upper Midwest. "Tornado Alley" includes Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
	Tell the participants that more than 800 tornadoes are

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reported nationwide in an average year. Tornadoes can

Explain that tornado season lasts from March to August, but can occur year-round. More than 80 percent of tornadoes occur between noon and midnight, and one quarter occur from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Tell the group that 9,000 deaths have been attributed to tornadoes in the past 50 years – an average of about 180 people each year. Annual damage from tornadoes

can run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

happen any time of the year and any time of day.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	CONTENT
	Explain that the population in the ten tornado-prone States is increasing because of more rapid urban development, which increases the likelihood of injuries and deaths.
Fujita Wind-Damage Scale	Fujita Wind-Damage Scale
 Measures tornado strength Six levels: F0: Light damage F1: Moderate damage F2: Considerable damage F3: Severe damage F4: Devastating damage F5: Incredible damage 	Refer the participants to the chart titled, <i>Fujita Wind-Damage Scale</i> , in their Participant Manuals. Explain that tornado strength is measured on the Fujita Wind-Damage Scale, which correlates damage with wind speed. There are six wind-damage levels on the scale:
FEMA CERT Basis Training To-4	• F0:
Display Slide To-4	Winds: Up to 72 miles per hour (mph)
	Damage: Light
РМ, Р. То-3	• F1:
	Winds: 73–112 mph
	 Damage: Moderate F2:
	Winds: 113–157 mph
	 Damage: Considerable F3:
	 F3. Winds: 158–206 mph
	 Damage: Severe
	 Damage: Severe F4:
	 Winds: 207–260 mph
	Damage: Devastating
	 F5:
	Winds: 261 mph or greater
	Damage: Incredible

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content

PM, P. To-3 Fujita Wind-Damage Scale	РМ, Р. То-3	Fujita Wind-Damage Scale
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WIND-DAMAGE LEVEL	WIND SPEED AND ANTICIPATED DAMAGE
F0	 Winds: Up to 72 miles per hour (mph) Damage: Light
F1	Damage: LightWinds: 73–112 mph
	 Damage: Moderate
F2	Winds: 113–157 mphDamage: Considerable
F3	Winds: 158–206 mphDamage: Severe
F4	Winds: 207–260 mphDamage: Devastating
F5	Winds: 261 mph or greaterDamage: Incredible

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content
If your community is located near a large body of water, take a few moments to explain the differences between tornadoes and water spouts, including differences in the times of year they can be expected.	Tell the participants that, although the Midwest and sections of the Southeast have the highest risk of tornadoes, with the help of sophisticated radar and other measures, meteorologists are now able to predict when conditions favorable for tornado formation exist and are able to warn the public better. Stress that many tornadoes (usually F0 and F1) are still unreported or unconfirmed.
?	How can you prepare for a tornado?
Allow the participants time to respond.	
	Summarize the discussion using the slide.
Tornado Preparedness • Know the risk • Identify potential shelter areas • Learn the community's warning system • Conduct family tornado drills	 Preparing for a Tornado Be sure to make the points listed below. Know the risk for tornadoes in the area. Although tornadoes have been reported throughout the United States, some areas are clearly at higher risk than others.
FEMA CERT Basis Training To-5 CERT Basis Training To-5	 <u>Identify potential shelter areas</u> where family members can gather during a tornado.
Display Slide To-5	 The best shelter from a tornado is to be underground. If an underground shelter or tornado-safe room is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. The idea is to get as many walls and roofs between you and the outside as possible. Avoid rooms with large free-span roofs. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned in favor of more substantial shelter.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content
Take this opportunity to explain your community's tornado warning system.	 Learn the community's warning system. Many areas use Emergency Alert System (EAS) to warn of imminent hazards. Within these areas, though, communities may have other warning systems for tornadoes, including sirens that are also used to signal fires and other hazards. For those who live in communities that use sirens, it is critical to learn the siren warning tone to ensure recognition. Also, when severe weather threatens, NOAA weather radio carries current information and instructions.
	 <u>Conduct periodic tornado drills</u> with the family to ensure that all family members know what to do and where to go during a tornado emergency.
?	What do you look for to recognize a tornado?
Allow the participants time to respond.	
	Stress that the "obvious" is not always as obvious as we think.
	 Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until they pick up dust and debris.
	 Tornadoes can be wrapped in heavy rain, which may limit visibility; however, because tornadoes are associated with powerful updrafts, <u>rain does not</u> <u>always fall</u> in or near tornadoes.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content
• High winds • Very large hail • Very large hail • Eff Basic Topics • Eff Basic Topics • Display Slide To-6 http://snrs.unl.edu/amet351/hull/hailstorm2.jpg	 Tornado Clues Occasionally tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert to signs of an approaching tornado, notably the sound that is something like an approaching freight train. Emphasize that the most obvious clues that a tornado may be forming or has formed are <u>high winds</u> and <u>very large hail</u>. Urge the participants to be alert for these clues and to take protective action, even if no tornado warning is issued.
***	What should you do when you see a tornado or receive a tornado warning? Allow the participants time to respond. Summarize the discussion using the visual.
 • Keep windows and doors closed and stay away from them • Use shielding and protective clothing • Furniture • Blankets • Bike helmets • Listen to EAS or NOAA Weather Radio 	 During a Tornado Emphasize that: Damage often occurs when wind gets inside a home. <u>Keep all windows and doors closed</u>. Houses do not explode because of air pressure differences. <u>Go immediately to an underground shelter or</u> <u>tornado-safe room</u>, or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor. <u>Put as much shielding material (such as furniture,</u> <u>blankets, bike helmets, etc.) as you can around you</u>. <u>Listen to EAS or NOAA Weather Radio</u> for current emergency information and instructions. Continue by telling the group that if they are driving and see a tornado <u>go to a nearby sturdy building</u> and seek an area on the lowest level, without windows. If there are no buildings nearby, <u>get out and away from the vehicle</u> and lie down in a low spot on the ground. Protect the head and neck.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	Content
After a Tornado • Avoid fallen power lines or broken utility lines • Stay out of damaged areas • Stay out of damaged buildings • Use a flashlight to look for damage • Turn off utilities • Reserve telephone for emergencies	 Explain that following a tornado, citizens should continue listening to EAS or NOAA weather radio for updated information and instructions. As with many other hazards, post-tornado actions include: <u>Avoiding fallen power lines or broken utility lines</u> and immediately reporting those you see <u>Staying out of damaged areas</u> until told that it is safe to enter
Display Slide To-8	 <u>Staying out of damaged buildings</u> <u>Using a flashlight to look for damage</u> and fire hazards and documenting damage for insurance purposes <u>Turning off utilities</u>, if necessary <u>Reserving the telephone for emergencies</u>
2	Does anyone have additional questions, comments, or concerns about tornadoes or tornado preparedness and response?
PM, P. To-6	Refer the participants to <i>Tornado Myths and Facts</i> in the Participant Manual. Suggest that they review these myths and facts after the session.

PM, P. To-8	Tornado Myths and Facts
Myth:	Areas near lakes, rivers, and mountains are safe from tornadoes.
Fact:	No place is safe from tornadoes. A tornado near Yellowstone National Park left a path of destruction up and down a 10,000-foot mountain.
Myth:	The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to explode as the tornado passes overhead.
Fact:	Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.
Myth:	Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.
Fact:	Windows should be left <u>closed</u> to minimize damage from flying debris and to keep the high wind out of the structure.
Myth:	If you are driving and see a tornado, you should drive at a right angle to the storm.
Fact:	The best thing to do is seek the best available shelter. Many people are injured or killed by remaining in their vehicles.
Myth:	People caught in the open should seek shelter under highway overpasses.
Fact:	Do <u>not</u> seek shelter under highway overpasses or under bridges. If possible, take shelter in a sturdy, reinforced building.

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