



KEMAH OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

AND THE

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Texas Department of Public Safety

TORNADO SAFETY FOR TEXANS

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas, including December, but they happen most often in spring and summer. Spokesmen for the Division of Emergency Management urge Texans to learn what to do when a tornado is sighted. The most important rule is to get low and stay low.

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of the home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows. Go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the office building, or to the designated shelter area.
- Leave your mobile home and take shelter in a nearby building. If no building is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or ravine. Mobile home parks should have a designated area, as well as a monitor to track broadcasts during severe weather.
- Never stay inside a car. Leave the car and lie flat in a ditch or a ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. Never try to outrun a tornado in your car.
- At school, follow plans and go to a designated shelter area, usually the school's interior hallway on the lowest floor. Stay out of auditorium, gyms and other areas with wide, free-span roofs. If you are in a portable or manufactured building, go to a nearby permanent structure or take cover outside on low, protected ground.
- Go to the interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor of a shopping center. Do not leave the shopping center to get in your car. If you are in open country, take cover on low, protected ground.

- Avoid areas near exterior glass or doors, areas along exterior walls, or rooms with wide expanse roofs -- such as auditoriums, cafeterias and gyms.
- Learn the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. A Tornado Watch means watch the sky. A Tornado Warning means a tornado is on the ground and you must seek shelter immediately.

For more information, contact Tommie Buchanan at 281-334-5414
or visit DEM's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us