

# Altus AFB Emergency Management



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For any questions, contact us at 481-6136

## Emergency Preparedness

### Emergency Communication Plan

When a disaster strikes, there is a chance that your family is not together. It is important to think about some of the following situations and make a plan just in case. Here are some questions to consider when making a plan:

- How will my family/household get emergency alerts and warnings?
- How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?
- How will my family/household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

### Tailor Your Plan to Your Needs

Remember when you are preparing that you tailor your plans and supplies to your families specific needs of your every day life and responsibilities.

When tailoring your family plans, try to consider working with others in your community to create a network for when a disaster strikes.

Keep in mind the following factors when customizing your plans for individual needs and responsibilities based on the methods of communication, types of shelter and methods of transportation that is available:

- age of members
- responsibilities for assisting others
- locations frequented
- dietary needs
- medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- languages
- cultural and religious considerations
- pets or service animals



## Building a Disaster Supply Kit

### Build A Kit

What is a disaster supply kit? It is a kit that is a simple collection of some basic items your household might need in the event of an emergency.

Time is everything when an emergency happens. You need to have your kit built well in advance of any emergency. At a moment's notice, you and your family might have to evacuate and take the essentials with you.

If you do not have to evacuate you might be without power for several days to weeks depending on the disaster.

### Assemble Emergency Supplies

Since you may be without power for several days to weeks, talk to your family; think through what that time without power, water, or heat would be like. Gather the basic supplies your family would need if grocery stores and other services become unavailable; if power, water, and gas is interrupted; or if you cannot leave your home. Basic emergency supplies should include the following,:

- Water
- Flashlight, Radio, Cell-phone and Charger
- Medical Supplies
- Sanitation
- Extra Clothing, Blankets, Sleeping Bags
- Non-Perishable Food

### Babies, Children, or Pets

It is important to consider the unique needs of your family, including access and functional needs, and the needs of children and pets. You may need to include:

- Extra water
- Pet Food
- Other dog essentials
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Infant Formula
- Baby Food
- Extra Clothes
- Other baby essentials



## Tornado Preparedness

Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms. Formed from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

### Before a Tornado

The first thing you should do when preparing is build an emergency kit and make a family communication plan. These are two good things that will save you time for when a tornado hits. Always be aware and alert to the changing weather conditions and look for the following danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

Terms to know:

*Tornado Watch* - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

*Tornado Warning* - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

### Listen for Notifications

Be sure to tune into your local radio stations and television channels.

- Local radio stations
- KWHW – 1450 AM
  - KRKZ – 93.5 FM
  - KEYB – 107.9 FM
  - KKVO – 90.9 FM

- Local TV Stations
- Channel 7 KSWO



### During a Tornado

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.

If you are caught with no shelter around, lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.

In all situations:

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

### After a Tornado

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Due to the possibility of communications being overwhelmed, check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- Stay out of damaged buildings and homes until local authorities indicate it is safe.

## Thunderstorms, Flooding, and Hail

Thunderstorms, flooding, and hail are all dangerous and can develop with a tornado. While a lot of people enjoy watching the lightning from the storms, it is very dangerous and should be avoided if outside. If you enjoy watching these amazing storms, please do so from the comfort of your own home. As you sit and enjoy the storm that is passing by, you may notice that the rain is starting to cause flooding. If at all possible avoid going out into the weather if flooding has occurred. Statistics say that flooding is the #1 weather killer in the U.S. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock a person down or stall a car, and 1 foot of water to move a vehicle. If you are caught in a flooding situation, it is best to just get to higher ground. Both thunderstorms and flooding can occur before a tornado, but hail can occur during any stages of a tornado. Hail can be anywhere from a few centimeters to a few inches in size and cause damage to just about everything it hits. What ever you do, do not go outside if it is hailing.



### Know the Difference

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch** - Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

**Flood Watch** - "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

**Flood Warning** - "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.

Always be sure to tune into your local radio stations and television channels for updates.

### Being Prepared

Regardless of the situation or disaster at hand, here are a few things to remember:

- Know your risks
- Have an emergency plan
- Build and restock your emergency kit
- Consider different types of insurance
- Stay tuned in for alerts
- Be aware of your surroundings



## Storm Sheltering for Base Housing



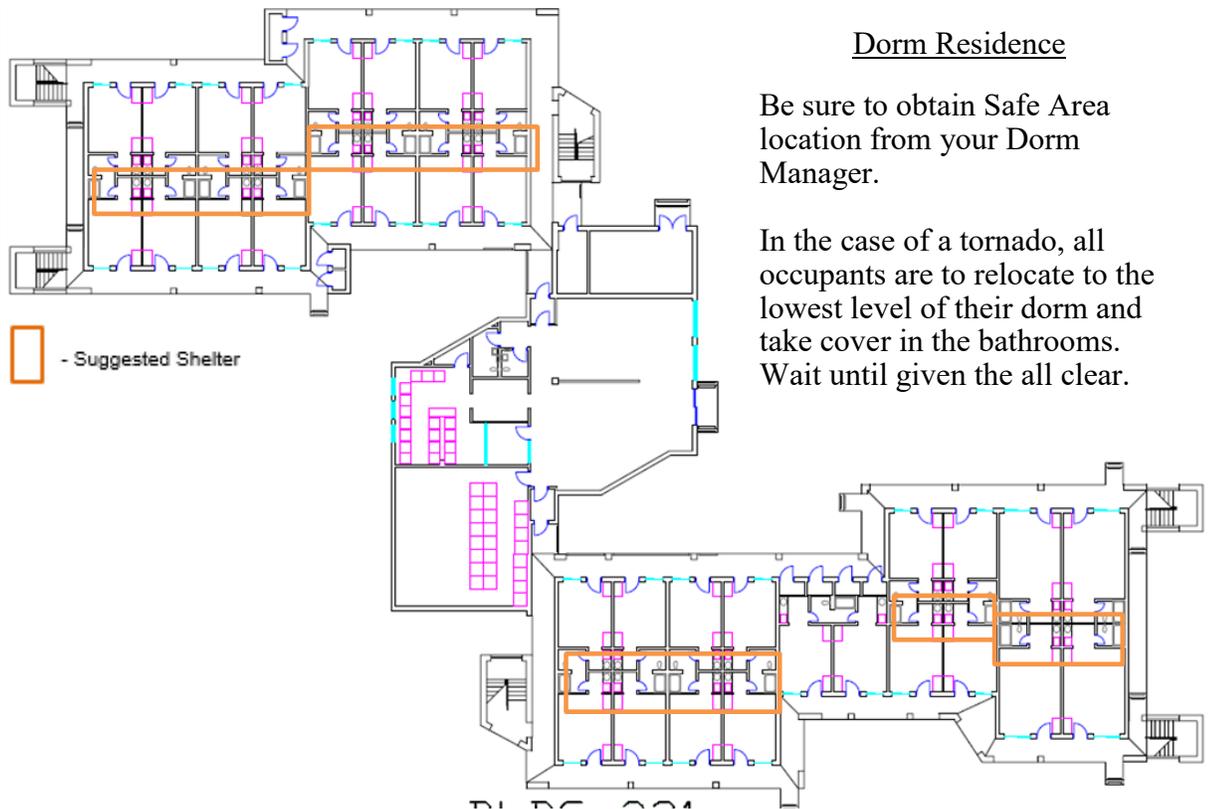
- Suggested Shelter

### In the Case of a Tornado

Be sure to gather your family and emergency kit and go to the nearest shelter area in your home. Based on the picture, the suggested shelter areas have been marked. All shelter areas need to be away from all windows, doors leading outside, and if possible, in a interior room.

Cover your head with a blanket to protect from debris and wait for the all clear to sound.

## Storm Sheltering for Lodging and Dorm Residence



### Dorm Residence

Be sure to obtain Safe Area location from your Dorm Manager.

In the case of a tornado, all occupants are to relocate to the lowest level of their dorm and take cover in the bathrooms. Wait until given the all clear.

### Lodging

We advise short term guests to keep a few things on hand in case of emergencies:

- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Drinking water
- Small first aid kit
- Protein bars or other non-perishable food items

Time is of top priority, first try to get to the first floor hallway or laundry room. If you do not have enough time please follow below instructions:

1. Listen to your TV or radio for weather updates/instructions
2. When a tornado warning for the local area is announced, quickly move to the interior room away from the doors and windows
3. Cover yourself with a mattress or blanket
4. Stay put until danger passes
5. If injured call 911
6. If uninjured, stay in your room until given the all clear
7. Report any damage to your room to the front desk

**BE  
READY**