



# Altus AFB Emergency Management

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## *Sheltering for Severe Weather*

**Severe thunderstorms** are officially defined as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. Hail this size can damage property such as plants, roofs and vehicles. The typical storm season is March-May.

Below is terms to familiarize yourself with:

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch**—Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning**—Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

### Before:

- Secure objects such as lawn furniture and take light objects inside.
- Bring small outdoor pets inside.

### During:

#### *Indoors:*

- Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity.

#### *Outdoors:*

- **Find shelter immediately!** Attempt to get into a building or vehicle. If no structure is

#### **Note:**

**Don't confuse S.I.P with severe weather sheltering!**

Stay indoors until all clear is announced.

### After:

- Call 911 (or equivalent) to report life threatening emergencies only, not damage or power outages.
- Help your neighbors who may require special assistance - infants, elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Drive only as necessary. Debris and washed out roads may make driving dangerous.
- Report property damage to your in-



**Did you know? - On average, the United States gets 100,000 thunderstorms per year. Lightning kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes.**

Contact your Installation's Office of Emergency Management for more information.



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## *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. .



### 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.

### 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. In-

### After a Tornado

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- 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

**AIR FORCE**

ALTUS AFB

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Prevent Prepare Respond Recover



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The 97th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight is the office of primary responsibility for the Installation Emergency Management Program.

The main purpose of the program is to plan, organize, train, and equip personnel and protect critical infrastructure needed to accomplish the mission against the possibility of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) incident, terrorist attack, major accident, or natural disaster.

The Readiness and Emergency Management Flight is involved in the emergency planning and training stages through response and recovery. Our highest priorities are force survivability and mission continuation.

SharePoint:

<https://altus.eis.aetc.af.mil/97msg/CES/EM/default.aspx>

WEB LINKS:[beready.af.mil](http://beready.af.mil)[fema.gov](http://fema.gov)[dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov)[ready.gov](http://ready.gov)