



Altus AFB

Emergency Management

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TORNADOS

What is a tornado?

A tornado is a rotating column of air that causes violent conditions in the weather. Tornadoes start from severe thunderstorms and extend to the ground. Winds can range from 73 mph to 318 mph. It's still not fully understood how tornadoes form.

What are the signs?

Indications for tornadoes can come early on before the funnel forms. The sky may change into unusual colors such as green or brown. If there is an absence of rain, hail may fall instead. People may also hear a loud roar or the sounds of a freight train as the storm builds. There will also be a large **wall cloud** that will lower in elevation and follow behind the storm cell.

How long do tornadoes last?

Tornadoes can last anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours, depending on severity and movement of the funnel.

Where are tornadoes?

Tornadoes have happened in every state except for Alaska, Hawaii, and Rhode Island. Although less common in most states, the Midwest is known as Tornado Alley. This is because tornadoes are much more prevalent in this area, making up an average of 64% of the United States' tornadoes.

The Fujita Scale:

- F0 = 40 - 72 mph
- F1 = 73 - 112 mph
- F2 = 113 - 157 mph
- F3 = 158 - 206 mph
- F4 = 207 - 260 mph
- F5 = 261 - 318 mph





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HOW TO PREPARE FOR TORNADOS

Avoiding damages from tornados isn't always possible. Having a shelter plan and an emergency bag can help you survive and recover much quicker.

Here are the right steps to take in order to prevent serious loss:

- Inspect and maintain your roof. Replace any broken or damaged shingles.
- Know where to shelter in your home (windowless, interior rooms).
- Prepare a bag with water, batteries, flashlights, canned food, and essentials.
- Remove outdoor items to protect from extra debris.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A TORNADO

To recover from a tornado, it's important to act quick and know your coverages.

- Look over your homeowner's insurance coverages.
- Contact your insurance agent as quickly as possible.
- Be there when the adjuster surveys the damages.
- Don't fall for scams, keep track of your claims.



Did You Know...

A tornado may appear transparent until it picks up dust, dirt, and debris.

Tornados usually move southwest to northeast.

Tornados are most likely between 3pm and 9pm.

AIR FORCE

ALTUS AFB

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Prevent Prepare Respond Recover



**Altus AFB
Emergency Management**

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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://usaf.dps.mil/teams/aetc-alt-97msg-ces/em/default.aspx>

WEB LINKS:beready.af.milfema.govdhs.govready.gov