



Altus AFB Emergency Management



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For any questions, contact us at 580-481-6136

Severe Weather

Tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, and hail are powerful forces of nature that are considered severe weather. They can strike with little warning, causing destruction quickly in mere moments. The following information is to help you understand these dangers, stay informed, and prioritize safety when severe weather threatens the base and the local area.

Thunderstorms, Flooding, and Hail

- Thunderstorms are small-scale severe weather events often accompanied by frequent lightning, high winds, and heavy rainfall. Supercell thunderstorms can create tornadoes because they have strong, rotating updrafts capable of reaching speeds over 100+ mph, making them extremely dangerous!
- Flooding is an overflow of water onto land and is the leading weather-related cause of death in the U.S. It can also cause extreme damage to property and infrastructure. Just six inches of moving water is enough to knock a person off their feet!
- Hail can vary in size, from as small as a marble to as large as a softball! Hailstorms can cause serious property damage and pose a threat to anyone caught outside. If hail is in the forecast, stay indoors, away from windows, and if possible, ensure vehicles are parked under cover or inside a garage.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are a swirling funnel of wind that are capable of ripping homes and cars off the ground and destroying property and lives in its path. 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 a tornado warning is issued, if you have access to a tornado shelter, take shelter immediately! If you don't have access to a tornado shelter, go to a small interior room on the lowest floor. Some examples are a bathroom, closet, or basement.

Local Weather Notifications

Local radio stations

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

Local TV Stations

- Channel 7 KSWO

After Severe Weather

- 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 and stay out of damaged buildings.



WATCH VS WARNING		
What's the difference between Tornado Watch and Tornado Warning?	 <p>TACO WATCH We have the ingredients. Tacos are possible.</p>	 <p>TACO WARNING We've got tacos. NOW.</p>
	<p>Tornado Watch: a tornado <u>is possible</u>.</p>	<p>Tornado Warning: a tornado <u>is happening right now!</u> Seek Shelter!!</p>