A TORNADO WATCH is used to alert you to the possibility of tornado development in your area. A TORNADO WARNING is issued when a tornado has actually been sighted or is indicated by radar. If we alert you to threatening conditions, ACT FAST!

If you don’t have a cellar, basement or saferoom, take shelter in a small room in the center of your home on the lowest floor, a bathroom is best. Get in the bathtub. Wrap yourself in a blanket or pull a mattress over you and protect your face and eyes. Wear a helmet, safety goggles and padding if you have them. If a center room is not available, use a small room on an east wall.

If you feel your home is unsafe, familiarize yourself with the shelters available in your community and move your family there before a storm hits. Residents in mobile homes should always move to a pre-selected shelter.

If you are stuck in your vehicle, don’t use it as a means of escape. Cars and trucks can be fatal if used as a shelter. If you are in a storm’s path, move perpendicular to the tornado and find safe shelter. Never seek shelter beneath an overpass.

If you are in an office or factory, go to an interior hallway on the lowest level, drop to the floor and protect your eyes and face. Do not take shelter in halls that open to the south or west. Centrally located stairwells also work well as shelters.

If you are caught by a tornado, avoid buildings with large span roofs and stay away from south and west walls.

LIGHTNING SAFETY

When lightning strikes, remember to seek shelter immediately in a hardtop car or building. If neither is available, find a low-lying space. Avoid trees, poles and metal. Do not use corded phones or electrical appliances. Avoid taking baths, showers and running water.

SEVERE WEATHER SUPPLY KIT

- Dress appropriately: long sleeve shirt, pants and tennis shoes or boots
- Weather Radio
- Flashlights
- First Aid Kit including prescription medication, glasses, etc.
- Extra batteries and matches in a waterproof container
- Three day supply of bottled water and non-perishable food
- Tool kit including gloves, pliers, wrench & hammer
- Credit cards and/or cash
- Car keys
- Drivers license, insurance and bank documents
- Blankets or sleeping bags—one per person
- Books, games and activities for children
- Change of clothes and shoes
- A set of ear protective gear for everyone

CONNECT WITH 9

Text ‘9CONNECT’ to 79640 to get News 9 weather and news apps to your phone.
Even the smallest storms have the potential to cause vast damage. You need to be proactive and create safety plans for your family. News 9 has many tips and information to assist you in your plans. Log on to News9.com/weathersafety for more information.