

SPRING WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

MARCH 25-MARCH 31, 2012

The Village of Rockford encourages all residents to be prepared for the tornado season. Preparedness could save lives.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned 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. 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 end of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Before a Tornado

- To begin preparing you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan
- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- 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 available put on a bicycle or motorcycle helmet to protect yourself from head injuries.

IF YOU ARE IN:

A STRUCTURE

- Go to a pre-designated shelter such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Put on sturdy shoes
- Do not open windows

A TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest level of a sturdy, nearby building. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.

THE OUTSIDE WITH NO SHELTER

- Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the nearest sturdy shelter.
- If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
- Stay in the car with seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

BE PREPARED, IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE