

# What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds, and tornadoes. Tornadoes occasionally accompany tropical storms and hurricanes that move over land. Tornadoes are most common to the right and ahead of the path of a storm center as it comes ashore.

Tornadoes may form during the early stages of rapidly developing thunderstorms. Tornadoes may appear transparent until dust and debris are picked up. Occasionally, two or more tornadoes may occur at the same time.

**A TORNADO WATCH** is issued when conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop (often during severe thunderstorms). This does not mean that a tornado will occur, just that it is possible.

**A TORNADO WARNING** means that a tornado has actually been sighted on the ground or a funnel cloud has been spotted.

**The safest place** to be during a tornado is in a basement, under something sturdy like a workbench or strong table. If there is no basement, **go to a small interior room**

**in the middle of the house, like a closet or bathroom.** Stay away from outside walls and windows. **Never seek shelter in a car.**

**Opening windows to equalize pressure during a tornado is ineffective** in reducing damage, and adds to the risk of flying glass.

Hail often accompanies severe storms, so move cars inside a garage or carport if possible to avoid damage. Keep your car keys and house keys on your person.

If time permits, move lawn furniture and yard equipment inside so that they do not become airborne.



[ For more information: [www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes) ]

**b. (FUNNY!)**

[ a little insurance humor ]

I thought my group insurance plan was fine until I discovered I would not collect until the whole group was sick. ■

An elderly man about to receive anesthesia is on the operating table awaiting surgery. He insisted that only his son, a renowned surgeon, should perform the operation. The father signaled to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?" asked the son.

"Son, don't be jittery, perform your best, and never forget that if the surgery fails and something happens to me, your mother will live with you and your wife for the rest of her days." ■

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