



# Tornado

## Tornado terms

**Tornado Watch:** Conditions favor the development of a tornado. Be prepared to take shelter.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been spotted. Take shelter immediately.

## Prepare to take cover



Prepare to find shelter immediately and receive local updates.

## When there is a tornado warning or you see one



**REMAIN CALM. AVOID PANIC.** There is no guaranteed safe place during a tornado, but you will minimize your exposure by finding shelter in the best possible location.



**AREAS TO SEEK** - rooms and corridors in the innermost part of a building at the lowest level possible. Close all doors, including main corridors insofar as possible.



**AREAS TO AVOID** - stay clear of windows, corridors with windows, or large free-standing expanses, such as auditoriums and cafeterias. **DO NOT** use elevators during a tornado warning.

## Know your community's warning system



For Virginia Tech, ensure that your notification information is updated to receive VT Alerts. It provides text and voice messaging and email notifications.



Many communities, including the Blacksburg campus, have sirens to signal that people outdoors should seek shelter.

## Watch for tornado danger signs



A large, dark, low-lying cloud, especially if rotating



Cloud of debris



Large hail



Funnel cloud



Loud roaring noise, similar to a freight train.

When the National Weather Service issues an official tornado warning, the University will activate the outdoor warning system and broadcast an Alert. If you hear it or otherwise know a tornado warning is in effect, immediately take shelter.