

# TORNADO AWARENESS

## IDENTIFY

Did you know that (after the United States) Canada gets more tornadoes than any other country in the world? Much more powerful than your typical thunderstorm, a tornado can cause significant damage to your worksite and property. The good news is, you can take some simple steps before, during, and after the storm to protect your worksite and keep your workers safe and sound.

## COMMUNICATE AND CONTROL

### Stay away from windows

If you have to shelter in an area other than a safe room, stay away from windows. Hail and wind-driven storm debris can smash glass and create airborne shrapnel.

### Batten down everything

The high winds from a tornado can turn trash cans, lumber, oxy-acetylene tanks, and rebar into deadly projectiles. Heed storm warnings and secure things outside before bad weather blows in.

### Know your skies

If you're outside or on the road, your first storm warning often comes from overhead. Learn to identify the different cloud types that indicate oncoming severe weather.

### Don't try to run

A tornado's ground speed averages 30 miles per hour, so don't try to outrun the storm. If you're caught outside, lie face down in the lowest available area, and protect your head with your arms.

### Listen to watches, react to warnings

When Environment Canada issues a tornado watch, practice your pre-storm strategies like clearing the worksite. When you hear a tornado warning, take it seriously, and head for shelter right away.

Here are some basic safety tips from the Government of Canada: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/trnds-drng-en.aspx>

### In all cases

- Get as close to the ground as possible, protect your head and watch for flying debris.
- Do not chase tornadoes — they are unpredictable and can change course abruptly.
- A tornado is deceptive. It may appear to be standing still but is, in fact, moving toward you.

### If you are in a house

- Go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room such as a bathroom, closet, or hallway.
- If you have no basement, protect yourself by taking shelter under a heavy table or desk.
- In all cases, stay away from windows, outside walls, and doors.

### If you are in an office or apartment building

- Take shelter in an inner hallway or room, ideally in the basement or on the ground floor.
- Do not use the elevator.
- Stay away from windows.

### If you are driving

- If you spot a tornado in the distance go to the nearest solid shelter.
- If the tornado is close, get out of your car and take cover in a low-lying area, such as a ditch.

## FACTS AND TIPS

A "tornado WATCH" means a tornado is possible.

A "tornado WARNING" means a tornado is already occurring or will occur very soon. Find shelter immediately.

Tornado season generally spans from May through September in Canada.

With wind speeds up to 300 miles per hour, tornadoes can chew up anything in their path — including a construction site.

## FACTS AND TIPS


Spring and summer are the peak seasons for these swirling funnel clouds. A loud roar, a sudden calm after a thunderstorm, or a dark, greenish sky can mean trouble is imminent.

It is recommended to lay down booms if there's time, or hooking the load line to the structure at a low point.

The risk at a construction site increases because of the equipment, tools, and materials on site. These can turn into projectiles in windstorms and can be the cause of fires. Also, damage to equipment or materials can increase the costs of a disaster significantly. Construction crews need to know how to spot these risks so they can take measures to reduce them.

# Tornado Facts

Tornadoes can develop quickly, so it's important for you and your family to know exactly what to do before and during a tornado.




**⌚** Tornadoes can last anywhere from several seconds to over an hour. The average is ten minutes.

**📢** When a tornado warning is issued you typically have about 15 minutes to take cover.

**👉** Flying debris is the greatest danger in tornadoes. Store protective coverings in or next to your shelter space.

**🏠** Take cover in a lowest area of your home or in a storm shelter.

EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5
WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG	SEVERE	DEVASTATING	INCREDIBLE
65 to 85 mph	86 to 110 mph	111 to 135 mph	136 to 165 mph	166 to 200 mph	>200 mph
minor or no damage	moderate damage	considerable damage	severe damage	extreme damage	total destruction of buildings



# THE QUIZ

1. Tornadoes can appear and develop quickly:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many EF Ratings are there?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is the safest place in a house during a tornado?
  - a) The garage
  - b) Stairwell
  - c) Basement
  - d) Under the bed
4. Canada has the second highest number of tornadoes in the world:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the difference between a WATCH and WARNING?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. You can outrun a tornado:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWERS:**

1. TRUE; 2. 5; 3. c; 4. TRUE; 5. WATCH: tornadoes are possible, WARNING: tornadoes are happening; 6. FALSE