

3) GO!!...

* Put Your Plan into Action!

Seek Shelter Immediately

- When your **NOAA Weather Radio** alarm sounds, move to your shelter without delay. Take your Weather Radio with you to stay informed of the latest weather conditions.
- Take your emergency supply kit to your shelter if it is not already there.
- Avoid using wired telephones and electrical appliances, as lightning can follow utility lines into your home and electrocute you.
- If your location receives storm damage, stay away from downed power lines and avoid areas with potential natural gas leaks.
- Call 9-1-1 to report injuries and extensive storm damage. Ask them to relay your report to the National Weather Service.

School-Specific Tornado Safety

- Quickly move students to Tornado Shelter locations and have them assume the tornado safety position shown below.
- Never release children onto buses or private vehicles during a Warning.



Flood and Flash Flood Safety

The simple rule to follow to keep yourself safe in a flood situation is to **stay above the water level**.

Because moving water is very powerful, you should never attempt to cross flood waters—on foot or in a vehicle. It only takes **6 inches** of moving water to sweep you off your feet, and **less than 2 feet** of water will float most vehicle! Once this occurs, your chance for survival drops quickly. In fact, nearly half of all flood fatalities occur in vehicles, when people leave safe areas and are swept away as they attempt to drive across a flooded road.

When you see a road covered with fast moving water, remember :

T.A.D.D.—Turn Around, Don't Drown.



The Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee (KWPC) is dedicated to raising the awareness of the impact that major weather events can have on Kentucky, and to informing Kentuckians how they can protect themselves from hazardous weather. This pamphlet is part of the KWPC effort to make Kentucky a safer place to live.

Be a Weather Safety Champion!



Ask any world-class athlete what it takes to be a champion, and you're likely to hear:

Preparation!

Focus!

Execution!

Protecting yourself from severe weather requires these very same attributes!

The Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee (KWPC) presents this plan for **Preparing, Focusing, and Executing** world-class training for Weather Safety Champions.

Get Ready, Get Set, and Go!

1) Get Ready...

* Know the Lingo

Tornado:

- Violently rotating **column of air** extending from the base of a thunderstorm.
- In contact with the ground.
- **Can touch down without a visible funnel.**

Funnel Cloud:

- **Rotating**, funnel-shaped cloud.
- **Not** in contact with the ground.
- Many low-level cloud features can **look** like funnel clouds, but unless they are rotating, they pose no danger.

Severe Thunderstorm:

- Hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger **and/or**
- Winds of 58 mph or greater.

Hazardous Weather Outlook:

- Identifies expected **timing, location, and type** of hazardous weather.
- Available on **NOAA Weather Radio** and at weather.gov.

Watch (Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado):

- Conditions **favorable** for severe weather.
- Large in size (states).
- Long in duration (several hours).

Warning (Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado):

- Severe weather **imminent or occurring**.
- Based on NWS Doppler Radar or reports.
- Small in size (counties).
- Short in duration (30-45 minutes).

Flood and Flash Flood Watches and Warnings:

- Water rising out of normal channels.
- Issued for longer periods of time than severe thunderstorms and tornadoes to account for the lag time from onset to when the water recedes.

* Be Prepared

Preparation and Mitigation

Preparation simply means to **make ready beforehand**. Mitigation refers to actions taken to **reduce the severity of a situation**.

- Clean out tornado shelters for easy accessibility. This also reduces potential flying debris if a tornado hits.
- Create an emergency supply kit, including a flashlight, battery-powered commercial and **NOAA Weather Radios**, and a 3-day supply of non-perishable food, water, and medications.
- Program your **NOAA Weather Radio** to receive warnings for your county and for immediately adjacent counties to your south, west, and northwest.

School-Specific Tornado Safety



Tornado Shelter Locations

- Develop a **Tornado Safety Plan**.
- Identify and mark Tornado Shelters (contact your County Emergency Manager or the NWS for guidelines).
- Ensure someone knows how to turn off electricity and gas if the school is damaged.
- Conduct drills of the Tornado Safety Plan frequently.

2) Get Set...

* Focus on the Threat!

Increase your **Situation Awareness (SA)**:

SA simply means “knowing what is going on so you can figure out what to do.” Increase your **SA** by gathering as much information as possible about the situation at hand, i.e., pay attention to your surroundings. By doing so, you have a better understanding of the dangers that may arise, and can therefore take actions to minimize them.

A great way to increase your **SA** of hazardous weather is to **check the forecast and Hazardous Weather Outlook each morning** before you go to school or work. Do this by watching local television weather broadcasts, listening to **NOAA Weather Radio**, or going to weather.gov.

If severe weather is expected, monitor the weather more closely, especially **radar and current Warnings** on weather.gov.

School-Specific Tornado Safety

- Assign a **Weather Watcher** to monitor weather conditions whenever a Tornado Watch is in effect. Keep bus drivers informed.
- Lunches or assemblies in large rooms should be delayed if severe weather is anticipated.
- Near dismissal time, keep students at school if threatening weather is expected. Children are safer at school than in a bus or car.

