



# TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

## WHAT IS A TORNADO?

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from the clouds to the ground and is often, although not always, visible as a funnel cloud. Lightening and hail are common in storms that produce tornadoes.

Tornadoes may strike quickly, with little to no warning, causing extensive damage to structures and disrupting transportation, power, water, gas, communications and other services in its direct path and in neighboring areas.

### **Tornado Watch**

**BE AWARE** | Tornadoes are possible. Move close to a shelter or sturdy building in case there is a warning.

**VS**

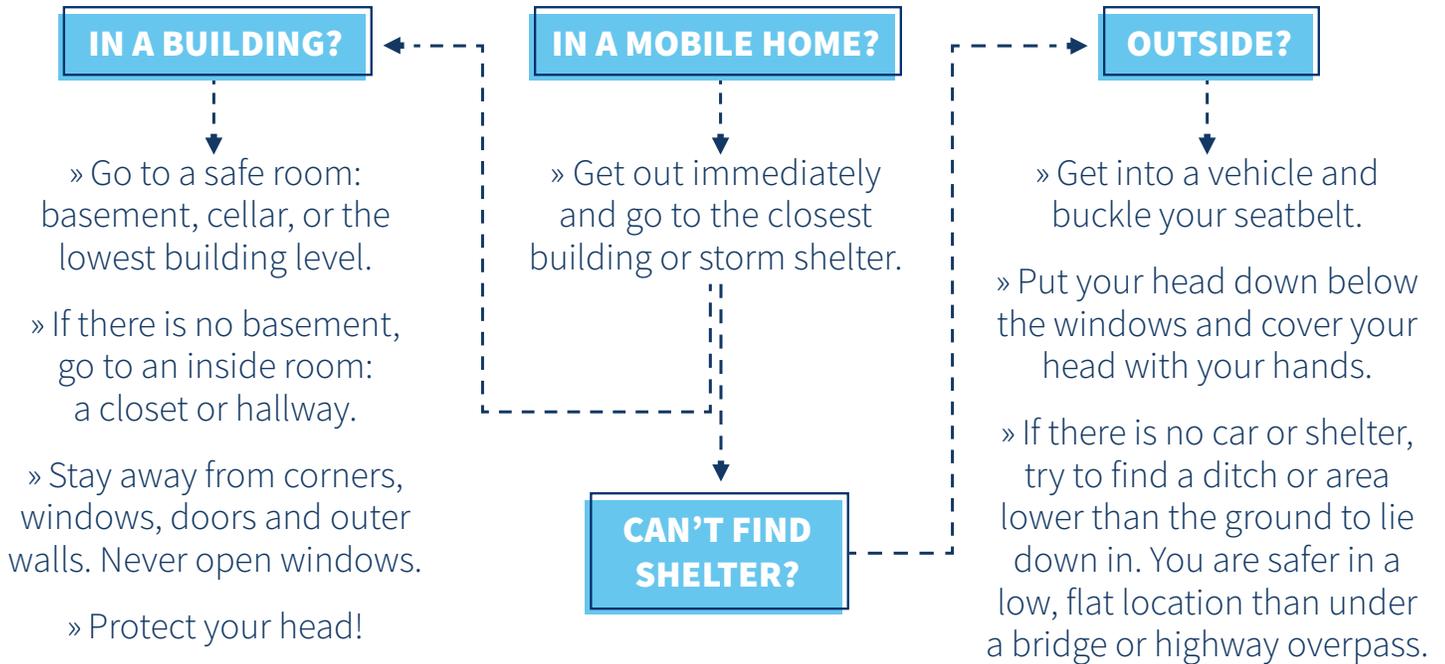
### **Tornado Warning**

**TAKE ACTION** | A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

## BEFORE A TORNADO

- ✓ Identify safe rooms or protective locations at home, school or work before a tornado threat arises so that you have a plan for where to go for safety when a tornado warning is issued.
- ✓ Be alert to changing weather conditions and tune in to NOAA weather radio, local media and social media for the latest information.
- ✓ Look for the following danger signs: dark, often greenish sky; large hail; large, dark, low-lying cloud formation or rotation; or a loud roar similar to a freight train.
- ✓ Have an emergency communication plan in place for your family.
- ✓ Build an emergency kit by downloading our checklist online at [www.vaemergency.gov](http://www.vaemergency.gov)!

# DURING A TORNADO



**“TORNADO ALLEY”**

While tornadoes are most common in the central part of the U.S. known as “Tornado Alley,” Virginia has seen it’s fair share of twisters. In 2004 there were 87 recorded tornadoes, and in 2017 we saw 25 tornadoes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Enhanced Fujita Scale	Damage
EF-0 (65-85 MPH)	LIGHT
EF-1 (86-110 MPH)	MODERATE
EF-2 (111-135 MPH)	CONSIDERABLE
EF-3 (136-165 MPH)	SEVERE
EF-4 (166-200 MPH)	DEVASTATING
EF-5 (200+ MPH)	INCREDIBLE

**80%** THE UNITED STATES AVERAGES 1,200 TORNADOES PER YEAR. ABOUT 80% ARE EITHER AN F0/EF0 OR F1/EF1.

**\$10M** 25 TORNADOES STRUCK VIRGINIA IN 2017 AND CAUSED \$10M IN DAMAGES BUT NO DEATHS OR INJURIES.



PEAK TORNADO SEASON IN VIRGINIA TAKES PLACE FROM **MAY TO SEPTEMBER**, HOWEVER, TORNADOES CAN OCCUR ANY TIME OF YEAR.



**IN 2004, HURRICANE IVAN PRODUCED 40 TORNADOES IN A SINGLE DAY.**



**OVER THE LAST DECADE, VIRGINIA HAS AVERAGED 24 TORNADOES PER YEAR.**