



Tornado Survival Tips

After spending 2 days serving with the Elevate Life Church Outreach Team to assist tornado survivors in the clean-up of their homes and hearing their stories, here are some suggestions that go far beyond any I have seen in preparing for a storm. None of the survivors ever expected this to happen to them so they offer the following tips for those living in a tornado prone area:

(If possible, have some of these items ready and located in your closet or safe room. You may have only seconds to seek shelter)

- Heed all warning sirens/notices to seek shelter – immediately!
- Seek shelter in an interior room or closet on the lowest level of the house with no windows (do not stay in a vehicle – seek shelter – vehicles were twisted, tossed, torn and impaled with debris)
- Protect your head with blankets, mattress or a bicycle helmet
- If you have pets – have a leash ready in your safe place and secure your pets while in the safe place
- Microchip your pets (some did not make it into the safe place and have been lost)
- A charged cell phone – you may need to call for help – or stay on the line with your family while riding the storm (this can serve multiple purposes if you have a flashlight app and the YouVersion Bible app)
- Prepare a “go bag” with a change of clothes, money, ID card and back-up credit card (it is possible you could lose your wallet in the storm/debris and have to cancel all your credit cards & clothes were lost so at least one pair of clothes would have been nice)
- Keep important documents in a water/fire proof safe
- A sturdy pair of shoes/boots ready to wear – if a tornado strikes you may emerge to find glass and nails everywhere
- Flashlight
- Packaged food and water that can be opened easily and requires no preparation (emergency provisions)
- Take pictures of all of your possessions **now** and store them in a cloud storage – USB or disc back-up could get damaged in a storm or fire. This will help with insurance claims.
- Pray!

I know most of us get into habits such as where we put our wallet, keys, etc. This has caused me to put a new plan in place as far as where I will place these things every day. I know how blessed I was because I was in the path of the storms, in the shelter for 30 minutes and emerged to find everything intact. I already had the leash and bicycle helmets in my shelter but I didn't have a lot of the other items ready to jump in the shelter in 10 seconds or less. When it gets down to the bottom line, the homes and possessions can be replaced but our lives are so precious and what really matters.