

Safety Bugle

Today's Topic: Tornado Safety



Introduction

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard.

Preparation

As part of Ciris Energy's Corporate Health and Safety Program, we have an Emergency Action Plan as Policy 6.0. If you have not reviewed this action plan recently, you should do so. It contains specific employee responsibilities.

Tornado Facts

Here are some facts you should know:

- Tornadoes may strike quickly with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until they pick up dust and debris.
- The typical tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but they can move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 miles per hour, although they can move up to 70 miles per hour.
- Tornadoes are most commonly reported in our area in spring and early summer.

Danger Signs

If you see one of these danger signs, immediately seek shelter, regardless of whether the tornado sirens have gone off our not.

- Dark, greenish clouds.
- Large hail.
- A large dark low-lying cloud.
- Rotating clouds.
- A loud noise like a freight train.



Shelter from Tornadoes

Finding appropriate shelter from a tornado can mean the difference between life and death. Use these guidelines to figure out where to go.

- If you are at the office, go immediately to the stairwell and go as far down as you can without going into the garage.
- If you are at home, go to the basement. If you do not have a basement, go to an interior closet or bathroom, away from windows.
- If you are driving, stop and seek shelter in a building basement or interior room.
- If there is no shelter, get out of the car and lie in a ditch.

Tornado Terminology

Tornado Watch- Tornadoes are possible, Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA which is located on Station 162.550 on a weather radio, or at this URL on your phone or computer
<http://www.wunderground.com/wxradio/>

Tornado Warning- A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Tornado Videos

For more information, watch this video. Produced by Weather Report – David Harrison
http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_188418&feature=iv&src_vid=RwbUqur91xU&v=uipfxLcMmAU