

TORNADO & WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Tornado Watch means tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms, and be prepared to act quickly if a warning is issued. Review and discuss your emergency plans with others.

Tornado Warning means tornado is imminent and an immediate danger to life and property. A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Move to your pre-designated storm refuge area immediately!

Severe Thunderstorm Watch means severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning means a severe thunderstorm is imminent and has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Severe Thunderstorms are capable of producing large hail, dangerous winds and tornadoes without warning.

Tornado sirens are sounded for those areas in the path of the tornado throughout Fairfield City Limits. Tornado sirens are intended to be heard outside of buildings and are often difficult to hear inside of buildings, it is recommended that each building and/or department be provided a NOAA Weather Radio with a battery backup and a tone/alert feature that automatically alerts when a watch or warning has been issued.

What to do during a tornado warning:

When the tornado sirens sound or a tornado has been sighted, go to a place of protection immediately.

- The safest place to be is underground. Move to a pre-designated storm refuge area, or a small window-less interior room on the lowest level possible.
- Assist those with functional needs in getting to protective areas.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Crouch down or get under sturdy furniture and use arms to protect head and neck. Stay away from windows and openspaces.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek safety in the closest sturdy building. If that is not possible, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of potential flooding.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.
- There are no "all clear" sirens. If you continue to hear tornado sirens, there is still a threat. Utilize emergency notification systems, such as IECC-Alerts to receive updated information.

Do not call 911 unless you need to report an emergency such as a fire, medical emergency, or severe building damage. 911 lines need to be kept open and available for emergency calls.