



TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be **ALERT** to the onset of severe weather & **PREPARED**.

BE ALERT

Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. If you don't regularly watch or listen to the weather report, but strange clouds start moving in and the weather begins to look stormy, turn to the local radio or television station to get the weather forecast.

Check [The Weather Channel](#) for additional information, or if you have trouble getting up-to-the-minute forecasts on a regular radio, then a "[NOAA weather radio](#)" is a wise & worthy investment. A weather radio with SAME (specific alert message encoding) technology is recommended. The code for Baca County is 8009, and the frequency is 162.400. Installing a weather application on your cell phone is a great way to stay apprised of current weather conditions for your immediate area. Some emergency notification systems are available online that may send messages to your cell phone during emergencies CodeRed <https://cne.coderedweb.com> & the Weather Channel's www.weather.com/notify are just some available notification options.

BE PREPARED

If you don't have a shelter, find a place where family members can gather if a tornado is headed your way. Depending on location, you could ask a neighbor on your block if they would allow you to shelter in their home or go to the closest community shelter as they have been prepared for just these types of emergencies. Wherever it is, the shelter should be well known by each member of the family.

Standard Underground Tornado Shelters (Basements & Cellars):

Hiding under a heavy work-table or under the stairs will protect the family from crumbling walls, chimneys, and large airborne debris falling into the cellar. If work tables & under the stairs are not an option locate a small, windowless room, an interior room such as a closet is best if available. If the closets are all packed with "stuff," a hall may be the best shelter. Cover your head use your arms to protect your head and neck. Old blankets, quilts and an unused mattress will protect against flying debris, but they should be stored in the shelter area. Precious time can be lost by trying to find these items at the last minute.

<http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/safety.htm>,
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~atmos/tornado_safety_rules.html,
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/>

Standard Single Level Structure, Two Story Dwelling No Basement, Or Disabled Person Unable To Descend To a Lower Level:

In a small, first level floor, windowless interior room such as a closet or bathroom. The bathtub and commode are anchored directly into the ground, and sometimes are the only thing left in place after the tornado. Getting into the bathtub with a couch cushion over you gives you protection on all sides, as well as an extra anchor to the foundation. Plumbing pipes may or may not help hold the walls together, but all the extra framing that it takes to put a bathroom together may make a big difference. If closets are all packed with "stuff," a hall may be the best shelter. Cover your head use your arms to protect your head and neck. Put as many walls as you can between yourself and the tornado. Even that may make the difference between life and death.

Mobile Homes & Modular Dwellings:

Seek safety in a designated safety shelter. Mobile homes are an especially vulnerable target for tornadic winds. A typical mobile home not tied down by guy wires can be rolled over by strong thunderstorm winds of 60-70 mph. In the higher winds of a tornado, mobile homes (tied down or not) may be completely disintegrated and the inhabitants literally flung to the winds. In recent years, nearly half of all tornado deaths have occurred in mobile homes.

In a car or truck:

Vehicles are extremely risky in a tornado. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Do not get under your vehicle. Seek shelter in a sturdy building, or underground if possible. If you are caught outside during a tornado and there is no adequate shelter immediately available: avoid areas with many trees, avoid vehicles, lie down flat in a gully, ditch, or low spot on the ground, and protect your head with an object or with your arms.

Disaster Supply Kit:

The [Red Cross](#) suggests that you assemble a "disaster supplies kit" that you keep in your shelter area. It should contain:

- A first aid kit with essential medication in addition to the usual items.
- A battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Canned and other non-perishable food and a hand operated can opener.
- Bottled water.
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves.
- Written instructions on how to turn off your homes utilities.

<http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/safety.htm>,

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>

http://www.public.iastate.edu/~atmos/tornado_safety_rules.html,

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County Wide Community Tornado Shelters

Campo:

- **Campo School**
 - 480 Maple Street,
Campo
 - 719-787-2226
- **Full Gospel Assembly**
 - 159 Maple, Campo
 - 719-787-2222

Pritchett:

- **Pritchett School**
 - 533 Irving Street
 - 719-523-4045

Springfield:

- **United Methodist Church**
 - 901 Colorado,
Springfield
 - 719-523-6587
- **Friends Church**
 - 157 W. 4th Ave,
Springfield
 - 719-523-4306

Two Buttes:

- **Two Buttes Gym**
 - 5th Street and C Street,
Two Buttes
- **United Methodist**
 - 5th Street and E Street,
Two Buttes

Vilas:

- **Vilas School**
 - 202 Collingwood Ave
 - 719-523-6738

Walsh:

- **Walsh Methodist Church**
 - 445 N. Nevada, Walsh
 - 719-324-5226
- **Walsh Baptist Church**
 - 103 E. Maplewood,
Walsh
 - 719-324-5875
- **Walsh First Baptist Church**
 - 308 Colorado, Walsh
 - 719-324-5624