



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOVEMBER: TORNADO AWARENESS

PEARL – November is the second highest month for tornadoes in Mississippi. Between 1950 and 2008, Mississippi was struck by 206 tornadoes, according to the National Weather Service. The number of tornadoes for November is only second to April which received 259 for the same time period. Mississippi averages 26 tornadoes and seven deaths per year since 1950, according to the weather service.

The National Weather Service has forecast a wetter fall for Mississippi, which increases the threat of tornadoes as strong fronts move through.

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. Mississippi averages 26 tornadoes and seven deaths per year since 1950, according to the weather service.

As we enter November, here are some things to remember if a tornado warning is issued.

If you are in your home:

- Go to the lowest level of the home, an inner hallway, or smaller inner room without windows, such as a closet or bathroom.
- Get away from windows and go to the center of the room.
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a workbench or a heavy table.

If you are in a mobile home:

- Evacuate the mobile home, even if it is equipped with tie-downs.
- Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation, or if one is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area that is a safe distance away from the mobile home.
- Tornadoes cannot change elevation quickly enough to pick someone up out of a ditch, especially a deep ditch or culvert.

If you are at work or school:

- Go to an inside hallway at the lowest level of the building.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

If you are outdoors:

- If possible, get inside a sturdy building with a concrete foundation.

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- If shelter is not available, or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building.

If you are in a vehicle:

- Never try to out drive a tornado. Tornadoes can lift a car and toss it in the air.
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle.

For more information, contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org.

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