

Would you know what to do if a twister hit?

Here's what the experts say you should think about if this ill wind blows near you.

Take shelter immediately

Don't wait to see if it's there or get a look at it - it might be too late. Head to the lower areas of a sturdy building or the basement of your home, and get under a stairway or strong table. If you don't have a basement, try someplace in the ground floor centre, like a bathroom or a closet. If you're in an apartment, seek the lower floors, and avoid elevators and windows. And stay away from buildings that have high overhang roofs, like supermarkets.

Keep away from doors, walls and windows

Debris from the first two can cause serious injury. Flying glass also carries a severe hazard.

Forget about 'pressure equalization'

You've probably seen people do this in the movies - opening windows to keep pressure from accumulating inside their homes. It doesn't usually work and it could result in your getting injured while you're wasting the time.

What happens if you're outdoors?

It's dangerous, but seek whatever shelter you can. Most experts suggest lying flat in a ditch or a ravine, and shielding your head with your arms.

Should you get out of the car?

Opinion is divided on this one. Some say escaping from your vehicle is the only way to survive. As trailer park residents know, tornados can wreak havoc with mobile vehicles and your chances of being hurt may be greater inside a car than out of it. If you do leave, make sure you're well away from the auto - a tornado has the power to literally tip a car over on top of you. Others claim staying buckled up with the doors unlocked is the best way to prevent injuries from flying debris. In the end, the choice is yours.

Watch out for debris

Everything from tree branches to furniture and glass can be airborne in a tornado. And something as small as a stick can become a lethal projectile when it hits you with the force of the winds.

After it's over

Be sure of where you are. A tornado can damage homes or structures, and leave them vulnerable to collapse, fires or both. Beware of downed power lines that could still be active