

# TORNADO PREPAREDNESS



## Who's at **risk**?

Tornadoes strike most often between March and June in the central United States. But they've been reported in all 48 continental states, at all times of the year. So no matter where you live, you need to be prepared!

## What to Do if a **Tornado is Coming**:

### **Seek shelter immediately!**

- If you're away from home, your best bets are basements or interior corridors of office buildings, tunnels, underground parking lots or subways. Avoid auditoriums, upper stories of office buildings, trailers and parked vehicles. And stay away from windows.
- If you're out in the open, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area and protect your head. Stay away from poles and overhead lines.
- If you're driving, drive at right angles to the tornado's path. If you can't escape the path of the tornado, get out of the vehicle to avoid being overturned and crushed.
- If you're at home, head for the basement and take cover under a heavy table or workbench. If you don't have a basement, go into a windowless room in the center of the house. If that's not possible, stay away from windows and cover yourself with a rug for protection against flying glass and debris.

### **Know the difference between a watch and a warning.**

- A tornado watch means conditions are right for the formation of a tornado. Stay alert, and be prepared to take shelter.
- A tornado warning means a tornado has been spotted in your area. Take shelter immediately!

Source: *Tornado Safety Reminders*,  
National Safety Council, 2003

