



Safety Bulletin

Tornado Safety For Business

Tornadoes can strike anywhere at any time. Protect your employees from a tornado by learning the safest places to seek shelter. Every school, business, nursing home or hospitals should have a disaster plan.

Guidelines for helping businesses prepare for severe weather:

- Develop a severe weather disaster plan and have frequent drills.
- Each business should be inspected and tornado shelter areas designated by a registered engineer or architect.
- Basements offer the best protection. Businesses without basements should use interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor and away from windows, and stairwells offer protection.
- Business Safety Officers should buy a NOAA Tone Alert Weather Radio and monitor weather information from the National Weather Service, local radio/television stations.
- If the business alarm system relies on electricity, have a compressed air horn or megaphone to activate the alarm in case of power failure.
- Make special provisions for disabled employees.
- Make sure someone knows how to turn off electricity and gas in the event the building is damaged.
- If severe weather is approaching, keep your employees inside the business.
- Cafeterias and large workspaces with wide span ceilings offer no protection from tornado strength winds.
- Account for each employee after they move to interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor.
- Protect your head by assuming the tornado protection position – duck, cover and hold.

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