

The Emergency Response Center: Staying Aware and Prepared!

Learn who is keeping an eye on actual and potential threats to the health and well-being of Missourians.



Objectives for this presentation:

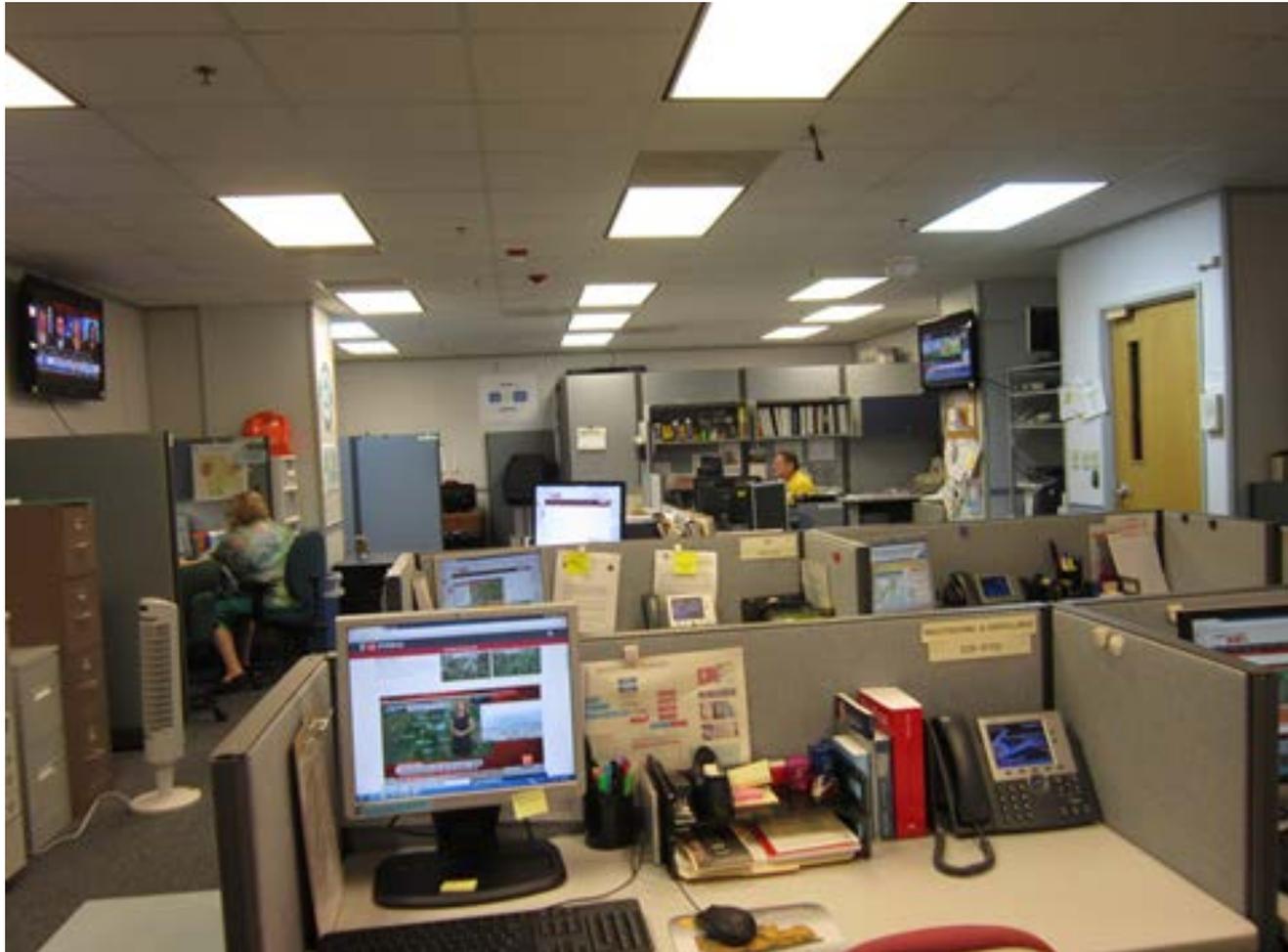
Participants will:

- ✓ **Receive an overview of the OEC/ERC;**
- ✓ **Understand the types of events that might impact Missouri's public health;**
- ✓ **Gain knowledge of injuries, illnesses and dangers common to each of the types of events;**
- ✓ **Know how situational awareness will be provided to DHSS staff and the public.**

Office of Emergency Coordination (OEC)

- **Provides direction in emergency response activities.**
- **Coordinates with other Federal, State, and Local agencies, organizations, businesses.**
- **Assures that systems are in place to be prepared for and respond to disasters.**

Emergency Response Center (ERC)



Emergency Response Center (ERC)

- ✓ **Located at 912 Wildwood Drive, Jefferson City**
- ✓ **Secure, limited access room on the 1st floor**
- ✓ **Normal hours of operation:**
 - **Monday thru Friday 7:00 am to Midnight**
 - **Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**
 - **Holidays 7:00 am to 6:00 pm**

Emergency Response Center (ERC)

- ✓ **After hours services provided through an agreement with the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC), Missouri Fusion Center, Missouri State Highway Patrol.**
- ✓ **24/7 operation when necessary due to an actual or potential public health emergency.**

Emergency Response Center (ERC)

Non-threat level operations include:

- **Answering the Public Health Emergency Hotline,**
- **Monitor statewide licensed hospitals' operational status,**
- **Monitor the DRMS email account for CDC alerts and hazardous material spills on roads or waterways,**
- **Monitor national, state, and local news media for weather conditions and news alerts.**

Emergency Response Center (ERC)

During a public health emergency:

- **Continue to perform all tasks on the previous slide,**
- **Conduct mass notifications (by phone and email) of situational awareness information and activation of emergency response teams,**
- **Activate the emergency response plan and serve as the health emergency operations center, providing space, equipment, and support for public health emergency response teams.**



Types of events that are of concern to us:

- **Natural disasters**
- **Terrorist incidents involving shootings and/or bombings → mass traumatic injuries**
- **Biological incidents**
- **Radiological incidents**
- **Chemical incidents**

Types of events that are of concern to us:

- **Natural disasters**



Tornadoes



Floods



Ice Storms



Earthquakes

Types of events that are of concern to us:

- Terrorist incidents → traumatic injuries



Shootings



Bombings



Vehicle Assaults
on Crowds

Types of events that are of concern to us:

- **Biological incidents**



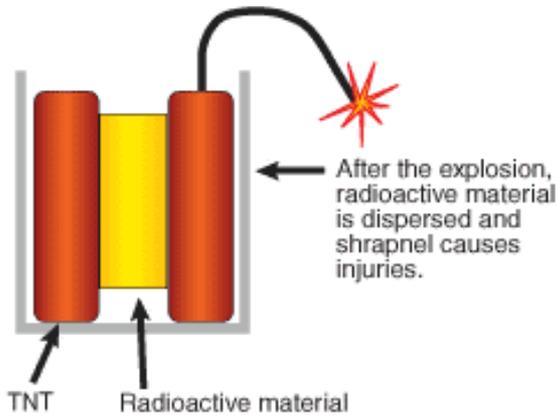
Pandemic Influenza



Bioterrorism

Types of events that are of concern to us:

- Radiological incidents



Dirty Bombs



Improvised Nuclear Devices

Types of events that are of concern to us:

- **Chemical incidents**



Chemical Terrorism



Toxic Industrial Chemicals

Key Points

- 1. Disasters can, and do, happen.**
- 2. When any disaster happens, there will be multiple public health impacts.**
- 3. DHSS will be part of the response to any major disaster.**
- 4. You can be a part of the DHSS response to a disaster.**
- 5. You can learn how to better protect yourself and your family in a disaster.**



Disasters can, and do, happen

**When any disaster happens,
there will be multiple
public health impacts**

Potential Issues Related to Public Health Following a Major Disaster or Emergency

Transporting Injured to Medical Care

Communication Between Responders

Hospital Capacity (Trauma, Burns)

Movement of Patients Between Hospitals

Safety of Responders, Medical Providers, Public Health Personnel

Evacuation vs. Sheltering in Place

Up-to-Date Information/Guidance for Medical Professionals, the Public, and Elected Officials and Other Decision Makers

Need for Hot Lines to answer calls from the public

LPHA Support

Damage to Critical Health-Related Facilities

Persons with Access and Functional Needs

Disease Outbreaks

Food and Water Safety

Hazmat Releases (Chemical, Radiation)

Shelters (Including Health and Safety Issues)

Disease and Injury Surveillance

Epidemiological Data and Studies

Management of Deceased

Need for Medical Supplies/Equipment

Need for Health Care Volunteers

Zoonotic Threats

Prophylactic Medications/Vaccines

Community Reception Centers (CRCs)

Mental Health Issues

Media/Social Media Messages

Clean-Up and Remediation

Examples of Public Health-Related Issues That Might Arise After A Disaster

- **Overburdened (and in some instances, damaged) hospitals**
- **Unsafe food and water supply**
- **Health-related information and guidance for the public, and for medical providers**
- **Disease surveillance**
- **Disease outbreaks**
- **Prophylactic medications/vaccines**
- **Radiation concerns**

**DHSS will be part of
the response to any
major disaster**



**You can be a part of the
DHSS response to a disaster**



LPHA
522



Contact Jody Starr at:

573-751-5152

jody.starr@health.mo.gov

DRL—Med-Surg
William.Koebel@health.mo.gov
751-6310

**You can learn how to
better protect yourself and
your family in a disaster**

Your Best Options for Tornado Safety Are (In This Order)



1. In an underground storm shelter, storm cellar, basement or engineered safe room designed to withstand a tornado
2. On the lowest floor of a sturdy building:
 - Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls.
 - Put as many walls between you and the tornado as you can.
 - Use pillows, couch cushions, sleeping bags, a mattress or blankets to cover up.
 - If you or your children have helmets, wear them!
 - If you have an infant, put them in their car seat or carrier.

Other important sheltering reminders:

- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, and real shoes (not flip flops or sandals!)
- Charge your cell phone and take it with you to shelter
- Make sure you know what you'll do with your pets. Find leashes and carriers now



You can survive almost every tornado if you follow these guidelines!

NWS Norman, OK

Protect Yourself During Earthquakes!



www.dropcoverholdon.org

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!



STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

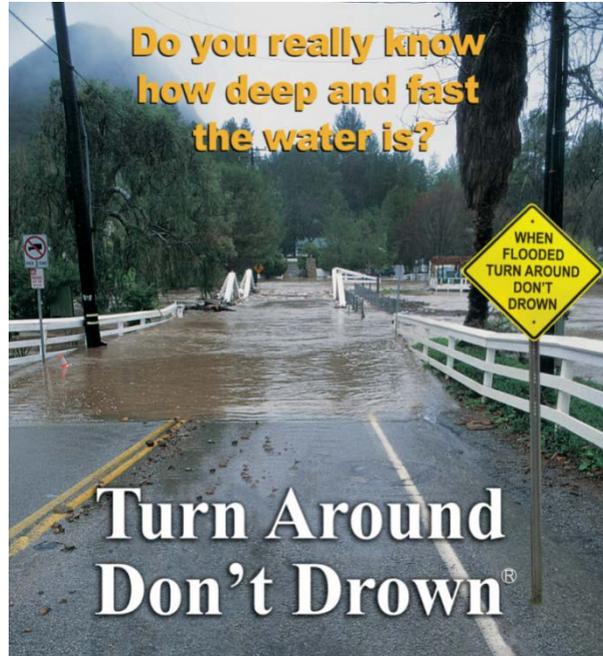
Wait 30 minutes after storm to resume activities.



www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov



Do you really know how deep and fast the water is?



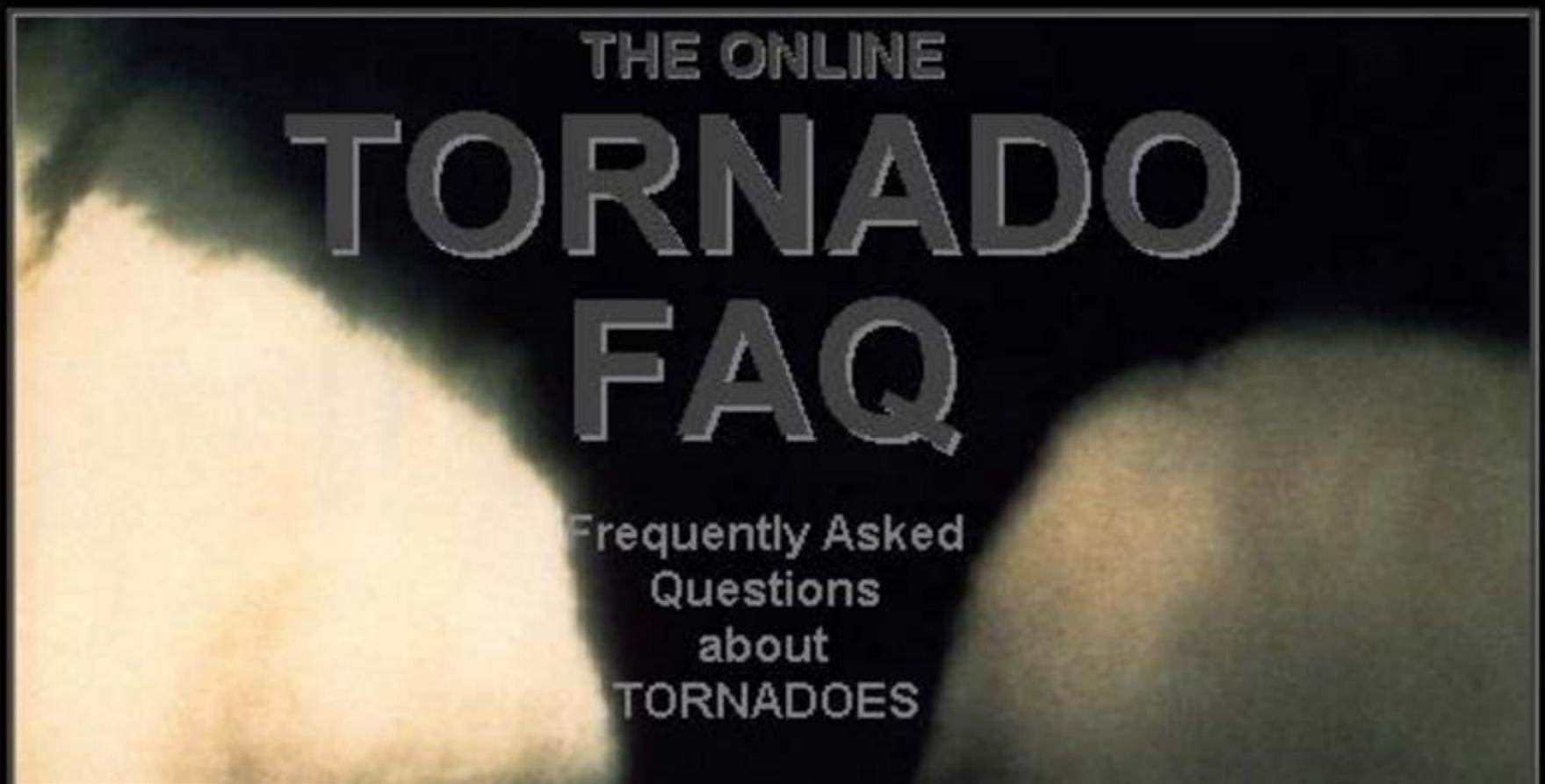
Turn Around Don't Drown[®]

BE INFORMED. BE PREPARED.
Know what to do in a radiation emergency.



emergency.cdc.gov/radiation





THE ONLINE
TORNADO
FAQ

Frequently Asked
Questions
about
TORNADOES

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

Roger Edwards, Storm Prediction Center

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PO Box 570

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

Telephone: 573-751-5152

FAX: 573-526-8389

Email: DRMS@health.mo.gov

Search

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How do I ...

- learn about the Adoptee Rights Act
- find transportation to health care appointments 
- apply for a hemp extract registration card
- find child care provider inspections
- find the latest food recalls
- find my local health department
- request a birth & death certificate
- apply for WIC
- see more...

Recent News

Kinetic Technologies and Kinetic Vet Announce the Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Hy-Optic, OptiVet and Optimend Due to Deficiencies in Sterility (9.6.16)

Find a program for...

Families Seniors Health Care Agencies Health Care Professionals Providers

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (WIC) Information for Families | Food Safety |
| Infant and Child Health | Oral Health |
| Food Programs | Adolescent & Teen Health |
| Wellness & Prevention | School Health |
| Minority Health | Show Me Healthy Women |
| Immunizations | Men's Health |
| Organ/Tissue Donation & Registry | Lead Poisoning & Prevention |
| Child Care | Rural Health |
| Women's Health | |

Missouri Health Videos

Dade County Fitness Center G...



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Office of Emergency Coordination (OEC)

OEC Update: June 2015

Hot Weather, Response to an Anthrax Attack - 1

Past issues of the OEC Update are archived on the O drive at: O:\CERT\OEC Update.

Hot Weather

- Hot weather can pose real health risks, particularly for people with pre-existing health issues. For 2014, DHSS has provisionally reported 12 heat-related deaths in Missouri.
- The following are some simple steps that everyone can take to protect themselves and their families:
 - Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
 - Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
 - Eat light, well-balanced meals at regular intervals.
 - Drink plenty of water and limit intake of alcohol.
 - Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
 - Protect your face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Wear sunscreen.
 - Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day; use the buddy system when working in heat and take frequent breaks.
 - People who do not have air conditioning should consider spending the warmest part of the day in buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities aware that special Cooling Centers are available throughout Missouri; their locations and hours of operation are shown at <https://ogf.oa.mo.gov/DHSS/coolingCenter/index.html>.
 - Be aware of medications that may impair the body's response to heat, including antihistamines, tranquilizers, and some medications for heart disease.
- For more information on heat-related issues, go to <http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/naturaldisaster> and scroll down to the section entitled "Heat."



Response to a Bioterrorism Attack with *Bacillus anthracis* (Anthrax) Spores - 1

- Of the different agents that could be used in a bioterrorism attack, *Bacillus anthracis*, the spore-forming bacteria which causes anthrax, is clearly one of the most concerning. There are several reasons for this concern, including the very high mortality rates that can be associated with the disease, and the fact that infectious anthrax spores can persist in the environment for decades following an attack. In 2001, the U.S. experienced an attack in which anthrax spores were deliberately spread through the U.S. postal by sending letters with powder containing infectious spores. Five people died in this attack. Anthrax is continuing to remain a major focus of national emergency preparedness planning.²
- B. anthracis* infection in humans can develop following exposure to the organism at different anatomic sites and can manifest in different clinical presentations, including cutaneous (the most common form of naturally occurring disease), inhalational, and gastrointestinal. Each of these forms of anthrax can progress to a life-threatening disease with a number of serious complications such as meningitis. Inhalational anthrax, acquired through inhalation of *B. anthracis* spores, is the form that would likely predominate following a bioterrorism attack although cases of cutaneous (and possibly gastrointestinal) anthrax could also be seen.

Office of Emergency Coordination (OEC)

OEC Update: March 2015

ERC Exercise, Severe Weather Information, Radiation Basics - 9

Past issues of the OEC Update are archived on the O drive at: O:\CERT\OEC Update.

ERC Scenario-Based Tabletop Exercise

- The Emergency Response Center (ERC) Scenario-Based Tabletop Exercise was held on March 26th. Approximately 70 persons from DHSS, SEMA, and the Department of Mental Health attended either the morning or afternoon session.
- For those who were unable to attend, the exercise will be repeated on April 27th from 1:00 to 4:30 PM. If you are planning to attend on April 27th and have not already done so, contact the ERC at 573/751-5152 or DRMS@health.mo.gov.



Severe Weather Information

- Severe weather – hail, tornadoes, damaging wind gusts, flooding – has already occurred in Missouri this year, and more will, of course, be expected.
- For links to information on current and future weather conditions in Missouri, as well as to other weather-related information, go to OEC's Natural Disasters and Weather Emergencies webpage at <http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/naturaldisasters.php>.
- The top section of this page contains a link to National Weather Service (NWS) radar sites, as well as a link to each of the NWS Forecast Offices that provide coverage for different areas of Missouri (see the figure on the right for an example of a Forecast Office's website). In addition, there are links to thunderstorm/tornado forecasts and excessive rainfall forecasts, and a link to a MoDOT site showing current road conditions in the state.
- Further down the page are sections on floods, thunderstorms, and tornadoes which contain links to general information and guidance on these subjects.
- An excellent source for severe weather preparedness is the Missouri StormAware website, located at <http://stormaware.mo.gov/>.



Radiation Basics - 9

- The following is a brief discussion of some additional issues, and challenges, that could arise during the response to a dirty bomb explosion:
 - Many people, including many healthcare workers, have a limited understanding of radiation and its potential risks. Often accompanying this limited understanding is a substantial, and possibly unwarranted, fear of radiation. This fear could lead to improper responses on the part of the public to a radiation event and, in the

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 - Eat light, well-balanced meals.
 - Drink plenty of water.
 - Wear loose, light-colored clothing.
 - Protect yourself from the sun.
 - Avoid strenuous activities during the heat and take frequent breaks.
 - People who do not have air conditioning should consider spending the warmest part of the day in air-conditioned buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities. Be aware that special Cooling Centers are available throughout Missouri; their locations and hours of operation are shown at <https://ogl.oa.mo.gov/DHSS/coolingCenter/index.html>.
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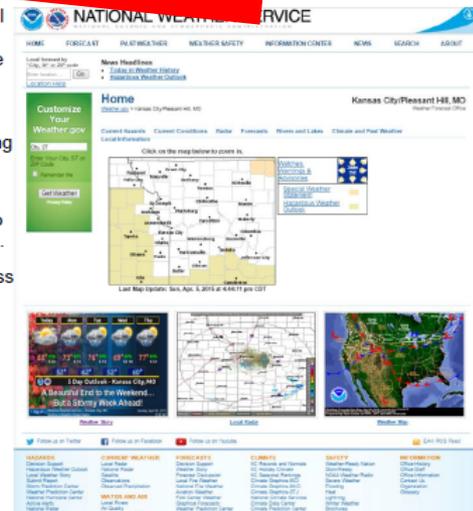
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DRMS@health.mo.gov

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Questions

Your Best Options for Tornado Safety Are (In This Order)



1. In an underground storm shelter, storm cellar, basement or engineered safe room designed to withstand a tornado
2. On the lowest floor of a sturdy building:
 - Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls.
 - Put as many walls between you and the tornado as you can.
 - Use pillows, couch cushions, sleeping bags, a mattress or blankets to cover up.
 - If you or your children have helmets, wear them!
 - If you have an infant, put them in their car seat or carrier.

Other important sheltering reminders:

- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, and real shoes (not flip flops or sandals!)
- Charge your cell phone and take it with you to shelter
- Make sure you know what you'll do with your pets. Find leashes and carriers now



You can survive almost every tornado if you follow these guidelines!

NWS Norman, OK

THE ONLINE TORNADO FAQ

Frequently Asked
Questions
about
TORNADOES

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

Roger Edwards, Storm Prediction Center



TORNADO SAFETY



FOR MOBILE HOMES 

- If you are in a mobile home, it is **NOT** safe, and you **MUST** seek an alternative shelter.
- Make plans ahead of time to stay with friends or family who live in a sturdy building.

Highway Overpasses Are Inadequate Tornado Sheltering Areas

For the following meteorological reasons...

- Flying debris, missiles in airflow, debris collection
- Wind Channeling under Overpass
- Higher Wind Speeds above 'True' Ground Level
- Many (Most?) Overpasses have **NO 'GIRDERS'**
- Wind will change direction as vortex passes

This can be basically summarized as...

- **Makes one a stationary target in an open area with virtually no protection**



1999 National Weather Association Annual Meeting - Biloxi, Mississippi

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

**Seek shelter in a substantial building
or hard-topped vehicle.**

**Wait 30 minutes after storm to
resume activities.**



www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov



**Do you really know
how deep and fast
the water is?**

WHEN
FLOODED
TURN AROUND
DON'T
DROWN

**Turn Around
Don't Drown[®]**



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