



# Tornado Preparedness Checklist

An estimated 1,000 tornadoes occur in the U.S. each year. Unlike other natural disasters that typically occur in a specific geographic region, tornadoes have been documented in every state.

Here are some tips that will help your business prepare for a tornado:

## ✓ Before a Tornado

- Have medical supplies on hand.
- Purchase a portable AM/FM radio and spare batteries to ensure you'll have a way to follow weather updates if the power goes out.
- Look for the following danger signs: dark, often greenish sky, large hail, low-lying clouds (particularly if rotating), loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- Vault your data off-site and test your disaster recovery systems regularly.
- Plan how you'll reroute phone calls. Consider the possibility that you might not have cellular service in the event of a widespread blackout.
- Test your business continuity and disaster recovery (BC/DR) plan and gather employee feedback.

## ✓ During a Tornado

- Follow the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.
- If you're inside, stay away from the windows and seek cover in a basement. If you don't have a basement in your office, go to the lowest floor of the building and seek shelter in a small center room (such as a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell or in an interior hallway with no windows.
- If you're caught in the middle of a tornado while in your car, stay put.
- Keep your employees informed by sending out an automated call recording or email.

## ✓ After a Tornado

- Account for all employees.
- Address staff injuries. For those severely injured, call 911.
- When safe, inspect both the exterior and interior of the building for damage.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Communicate with employees, customers and vendors to let them know the status of your business.
- Refer to your BC/DR plan to determine next steps for continuing your business operations.
- Review your plan to determine what worked and what areas needed improvement.

Rentsys Recovery Services provides comprehensive BC/DR solutions. To learn more about how we can help you prepare for a tornado, visit our blog at [blog.rentsysrecovery.com](http://blog.rentsysrecovery.com), or give us a call at 866.917.6000.

**Source:** NOAA • <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology>