

Tornado Prep Checklist

Historically, Texas has more tornadoes each year than any other state. Ensuring you're ready before severe weather arrives can put your mind at ease. Download and print this checklist to help you prepare. And be sure to listen to your local officials for important information.



Create an emergency kit

At a minimum, stock up on these essentials and customize based on your family's specific needs.

Tip: Pack your essentials in plastic bins for easy organization and access.

- One gallon of water per person, per day for 7 days
- Non-perishable food
- Hand-operated can opener
- Disposable cups, plates and utensils
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (1-month supply) and medical items
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cell phone with charger
- Basic tool kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Vital documents (see details below)
- Cash (in case banks or ATMs are unavailable)
- Extra fuel for vehicles and generators
- Extra set of house and car keys

Pack a personal "go" bag

Include 3-days of essentials in case of an emergency evacuation. Think of this as a scaled-down version of your emergency kit.

And remember: Don't try to outrun a tornado!

Develop a communication plan

Ensure everyone is informed.

- Share emergency contact info, including an out-of-state contact, if possible
- Enable your phone's emergency alerts: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>
- If you need to evacuate, agree on where you will go

Protect vital documents

Put in a waterproof, fireproof document bag:

- Personal documents (birth certificates, driver's license, passports, Social Security cards, medical records, emergency contacts)
- Financial paperwork (insurance policies, titles, deeds or rental agreement)
- Legal documents (wills, power of attorney)

Prepare your home

If you can safely do so before severe weather arrives:

- Bring outdoor furniture and any other ungrounded items inside
- Remove long or dead tree branches near your roof
- Know how to shut off water, gas and electricity in case of an emergency
- Take shelter in a windowless interior room on the lowest floor
- Close storm shutters or reinforce windows
- Brace exterior doors, including the garage door