

## What To Do During Severe Weather if You Live In a Home Without A Basement or In a Mobile Home



In Polk County Georgia, spring and early summer is the peak season for severe weather outbreaks, although severe weather including tornadoes can occur in our area at any time of the year. It's also a time to be sure you and your family have a plan in place should severe weather and tornadoes occur. If you are not aware, the safest place during severe weather and tornado warnings is in the safety of a basement or storm cellar, but not everyone has this option.

For those of you without a basement at home, school or office, the safest place during severe weather is in a windowless room at the center of the building on the ground floor. Often, this turns out to be a bathroom, under a staircase, in a closet or even a hallway. Once you arrive at your safe place, crouch as low as possible to the ground, facing down, with your hands over your heads to protect yourself from flying debris. You should refrain from seeking shelter next to any heavy objects that could fall on you.

The National Weather Service says that nearly 40% of all tornado deaths have historically occurred in mobile homes. People who live in mobile homes should abandon them in favor of a sturdy building during severe weather. This alternative structure should be a part of your severe weather plan that is identified well in advance. Taking the time to plan for severe weather is your responsibility.

Because mobile homes are not designed to withstand the force of a tornado or even straight-line winds common in severe storms, it's important that you leave the mobile home to find shelter elsewhere. Some mobile home parks provide storm shelters for residents, but if that is not the case where you live, then the best course of action is to get out before a storm hits.

If no shelter is immediately available and there's no time to seek shelter elsewhere, the best thing to do is to leave your mobile home and find the lowest-lying area near you and lie down in it, covering your head with your hands. Above all, it's important that you and your family are aware of weather conditions in your area and prepared in the event severe weather strikes. If tornadoes are expected in your area on a given day or night, it might be a good idea to spend the day or night at a sturdier location such as a friend's house. It could be a life-saving decision.

Visit the below sites to learn more about severe weather:

<https://www.polkga.org/tornado-checklist>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cODBQgaGTw>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UT60wyKA\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UT60wyKA_c)

The take away from this information is that you must prepare prior to severe weather and create a plan for you and your family.

# MANUFACTURED/ MOBILE HOME SAFETY



## STEP 01 STEP 02 STEP 03

### Every Day

- ✓ **Identify a Safe Place:** Have a family plan that includes ideas for shelter spaces and emergency locations. If there are current plans, review them.
- ✓ **Know Evacuation Routes:** Have routes planned out for evacuating your home in the event of severe weather. Keep up to date on potential road closures in your community.
- ✓ **Timing:** Know how long it will take you to evacuate your home during severe weather.
- ✓ **Be Weather-Ready:** Check the forecast frequently to see if you are at a risk of severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- ✓ **Sign Up for Notifications:** Know how to get watches and warnings in your community. Check media alerts in your area.

### Day Before Severe Weather

- ✓ **Coordinate with Family/Friends:** Talk with family and friends to discuss spending time at their home if it is safer.
- ✓ **Help Your Neighbor:** Encourage those around you to prepare for the possibility of severe weather. Check on them and offer to help them get to a safe place.
- ✓ **Stay Weather-Ready:** Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about future watches and warnings.
- ✓ **Transportation:** Make sure all cars are filled up with enough gas to get you to a sturdier shelter. If you do not have a car, contact friends or family to prepare transportation.

### Day of Severe Weather

- ✓ **Execute Your Plan:** If a tornado watch is issued in your community and storms are headed toward your area, it is time to evacuate your home to a sturdier shelter. Take important documents with you. Don't forget your pets.
- ✓ **Stay Informed:** Keep listening to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for more updates about tornado watches and warnings impacting your area.
- ✓ **Contact Your Family and Loved Ones:** Let your family and close friends know where you are evacuating to. Ask if family and close friends in vulnerable housing need to relocate as well.
- ✓ **Last Resort:** If a Tornado Warning is issued for your community before you evacuate, it may already be too dangerous to evacuate to a safer location. Last resort options include driving away (seatbelt on) to a sturdy structure or moving to a protected area outside shielded from potential debris or flooding.



You can replace your  
possessions...  
...but you cannot replace  
a life.



## Tornadoes Can Be Deadly

**72%** of all tornado fatalities occur in homes (permanent, mobile, manufactured, etc.)  
54% of the housing fatalities occur in mobile/manufactured homes, even though MHs only make up 6% of the US housing stock.<sup>1</sup>

Previous research showed that residents are 15-20 times more likely to be killed in a mobile/manufactured home compared to a permanent home.<sup>2</sup> Complete destruction of a MH is expected for wind loads approximately 45% of winds expected to destroy a permanent home.<sup>3</sup>

## No One Is Safe

No matter what type of manufactured home you live in, it is not a safe place to take shelter during a severe weather event. **MOVE TO A SAFER STRUCTURE.**

Single family homes are safer, but not completely safe. After coming to a well-built single-family home or commercial building, it's still important to move to the lowest floor, preferably underground. Keep as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Protect your head with a helmet.

## How to Get Warning Information:



Wireless Emergency Alerts



Internet / Weather Apps



Local TV and Radio



NOAA Weather Radio



Outdoor Sirens



Friends and Family

# Tornado Sheltering Guidelines

Seek the best available refuge area **immediately** when a Tornado Warning is issued.  
Your chance of surviving a tornado is excellent if you follow these guidelines.

### WORST OPTIONS

Mobile homes  
Vehicles  
Underneath a highway overpass

### BAD OPTIONS

Large open rooms like gymnasiums  
Manufactured housing

### GOOD OPTIONS

Interior room of a well-constructed home or building  
Basement

### BEST OPTIONS

Above or below ground Tornado Storm Shelter (NSSA/ICC 500 compliant)\*  
Specifically-designed FEMA Safe Room\*

Find another option



Stay in place until all clear

PHOTO: U.S. Air Force - Tech. Sgt. Bradley C. Church

\*Recommended by FEMA



National Weather Service

[weather.gov/safety/tornado](https://weather.gov/safety/tornado)