

## Tornado Safety Tips

**Get Inside A Sturdy Structure:**

- Get underground (basement/storm cellar).
- If no basement - go to a small interior room on the lowest floor such as a bathroom, closet or hallway.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- In a mobile home - find nearby substantial shelter.

**National Weather Service Paducah, Kentucky**

## Tornado Safety Tips

**Flying debris injures and kills most people!**

- Lay low to the ground.
- Cover yourself with pillows, blankets, etc.
- Wear a helmet and good shoes.
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture
- Stay away from windows/glass.
- Do not wait until the last minute to take shelter.

**National Weather Service Paducah, Kentucky**

# Severe Weather Awareness Week urges preparedness across Western Ky., Tenn.

Residents across western Kentucky and western Tennessee are being encouraged to review their emergency plans and refresh their safety kits as part of Severe Weather Awareness Week.

The annual campaign, coordinated by the National Weather Service and state emergency management

agencies, highlights the importance of preparation ahead of peak spring storm season — a time when the region is especially vulnerable to tornadoes, flash flooding, damaging winds and large hail.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service office in Paducah, which serves much of western Kentucky

and northwest Tennessee, say the week is designed to ensure families understand the difference between watches and warnings and know how to respond quickly when severe weather strikes.

“Severe storms can develop rapidly in our area, particularly during the spring months,” meteorologists emphasized in a statement. “Having multiple ways to

receive warnings and knowing your safe place ahead of time can save lives.”

Western Kentucky and Tennessee sit in a region often referred to as part of “Dixie Alley,” where tornadoes frequently occur, sometimes at night or embedded within lines of storms. In addition to tornado threats, the area regularly experiences: flash flooding from heavy rain-

fall, straight-line winds exceeding 60 mph, lightning strikes, and large hail capable of damaging vehicles and crops.

Emergency officials stress that flooding remains one of the leading weather-related killers in both states, often occurring when drivers attempt to cross water-covered roads.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, resi-

dents are encouraged to:

- Identify a safe shelter location — preferably a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor away from windows.
- Assemble an emergency kit with water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications and important documents.
- Enable weather alerts on smartphones and consider purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Practice tornado drills at home, school and work.

Schools and local governments throughout the region often participate in statewide tornado drills during the awareness week to test emergency procedures and communication systems.

Local emergency management agencies are also using social media, community events and classroom visits to educate the public about storm safety. Officials encourage residents to check on elderly neighbors and ensure children understand where to go if a warning is issued.

With spring storm systems already beginning to move across the Mid-South, meteorologists say preparation now can make all the difference later.

“Severe Weather Awareness Week isn’t about fear,” officials noted. “It’s about readiness.”

Residents can find additional preparedness resources through their county emergency management offices and local National Weather Service websites.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FULTON COUNTY 911 CENTER

The Fulton County 911 Center is seeking sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) applications from qualified vendors for the procurement and implementation of a Next Generation (NextGen) and CJIS-compliant 911 audio and data recording system.

The selected system must meet all applicable federal, state, and local requirements, including Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) security standards, and be fully compatible with current and future NextGen 911 infrastructure.

At a minimum, the system shall be capable of recording, storing, retrieving, and securely managing the following:

- 911 emergency telephone audio
- Administrative telephone lines
- Radio traffic (Analog and P25)
- Associated metadata

A complete copy of the official Request for Proposals (RFP) document, including detailed specifications, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria, may be obtained by contacting:

Interested vendors may obtain a complete copy of the Request for Proposal by contacting:  
 Fulton County Dispatch  
 Phone: (270) 236-3015  
 Email: psap.director@fultoncountky.gov

All proposal submissions must be received no later than March 12th, 2026.

Proposals may be submitted electronically to:  
 psap.director@fultoncountky.gov

*Fulton County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities in the best interest of the County.*

### STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out	The day before	The day of
<i>If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.</i>	<i>The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.</i>	<i>Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure that you have emergency supplies</li> <li>Know your safe places</li> <li>Have a family communication plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust plans</li> <li>Make sure your phone can receive WEAS</li> <li>Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind your family of the communication plan</li> <li>Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are</li> <li>When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!</li> </ul>

weather.gov

### Watches vs. Warnings

Watch	Warning
Atmospheric conditions favorable for severe weather.	Severe weather is occurring or imminent
Typically in effect for several hours.	Typically in effect 30-45 minutes.
Covers a large area (many counties).	Covers a relatively small area.
Stay alert. Be prepared to take shelter if a warning is issued.	Take Action. Go to your shelter immediately.

**National Weather Service Paducah, Kentucky**

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