

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM A TORNADO

If a tornado WARNING sounds, you should seek shelter immediately. Normally, a tornado WATCH will be announced prior to the WARNING. If a tornado WATCH is announced, you should:

1. Monitor radio and/or television for worsening conditions and further updates.
2. Tie down or move inside the storeroom, garage, or quarters, any loose items such as garbage cans, bicycles, toys, swing sets, etc. This will be flying debris in a tornado.
3. Make sure animals have shelter and your vehicle is in a garage if possible.
4. Disconnect all electrical equipment and appliances not required for emergency use.
5. Check your tornado protective area and emergency kit to make sure it is ready.

Where should I seek protection?

Capehart and Coffman Heights Base Housing Area

Unfortunately, many homes in base housing do not have basements and there are no designated storm shelters. If you live in a home without a basement, the safest place to seek protection would be on the lowest level in a closet or bathroom with no windows, or in a room near the center of your house. This helps to minimize the possibility of being next to a wall failing from direct winds, and also allows the walls to slow or stop the flying debris. Choose a small room, which tends to be stronger. If available, get under something sturdy like a desk, and cover yourself with heavy blankets or coats. Again, you're trying to protect yourself from flying debris, failing walls, and falling items. It may also be a good idea to coordinate protective areas with neighbors if their home offers better protection.

Ideally, a basement or a below-ground location offers the best protection. The winds blow only from ground-level up; therefore being below ground reduces greatly being struck by flying debris and doesn't allow the winds to cause direct building damage below ground level.

For service members and their families that do not feel safe in their home, the lower level of building 301D (Martin Bomber Building) is the preferred facility to use as a Tornado Protective Area. The ground level entrances 2 and 3 on the east side of the facility are best for gaining access to the main corridors inside the facility. One thing to keep in mind is if members choose to utilize Building 301D as a tornado protective area, the decision to do so should be made early on and not

once a tornado warning has been issued. Bathrooms are located in most of the stairwells throughout the facility. Members should also be aware that minimal services could be available and to bring an emergency kit with them.

Leadership understands that pets can be as close as family, so when you seek shelter from the storm, your pets are also welcome. Pets, however, must be kept on a leash or in a kennel. Members should plan ahead and bring food and water for pets as they may be in the facility for a few hours. Also, please remember to clean up after your pets.

FamCamp/Base Lake

All campers should receive inclement weather guidance upon check-in. If inclement weather is predicted, the campground host will attempt to notify all campers. In the event of a tornado, do not stay in your camper. The Boathouse will be opened for protection, and campers are instructed to seek protection inside the restrooms or hallway. If stranded outside, lying face down a ditch or ravine may also provide some protection. It's recommended that you lay flat with your feet pointed toward the direction of the tornado.

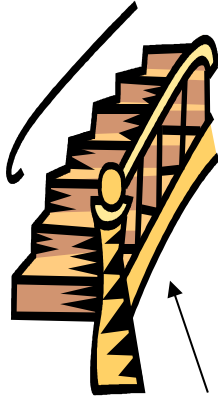
Other Tornado Protective Area Guidance

If a tornado WARNING is issued, meaning a tornado has been confirmed on the ground, the best place to take shelter is normally right where you are. If you attempt to drive to a different location, you may be placing yourself at greater risk. When evaluating potential shelter locations, be sure to look UP as well. If you're sheltering in a closet, you certainly won't want to have large, heavy items on the shelves above you.

In Homes with Basements: Use the area near the wall in the strongest and deepest below ground portion of the basement.

In Homes without Basements: Take cover in the center part of the house, on the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom. If your home does not have a basement and a nearby neighbor does, you might consider prior arrangements to occupy their basement when the siren sounds.

Mobile Homes: Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to overturning and destruction during strong winds, and should be abandoned in favor of a pre-selected shelter, or even a ditch in the open. Tying them with cables to cement blocks buried in the ground can minimize damage to mobile homes.



Under the stairs



Ground floor bathroom



Not the safest place to be in a tornado!

In An Open Outdoors Area: Lie flat in the nearest ditch or ravine, and point your feet toward the tornado to keep your head protected from flying debris. Be alert for flash flooding caused by thunderstorm rains. Do not seek shelter under an overpass or in your car.

In Shopping Centers, BX, Commissary, or Other Public-Type Facilities

Follow the directions given by facility personnel immediately and calmly. Do not go to your parked car. If no directions are given, go into a restroom or small windowless office.

You should remain in your protective area, monitoring the local weather on a battery or hand-crank radio, until it is announced that the storm has passed. Once this occurs, you can leave your shelter. If the tornado did impact your immediate area be aware of the many remaining dangers such as downed power lines, falling debris and fires.

TORNADO PROTECTIVE AREAS ON BASE

The following are common protective areas across on base. It's important to note that this is not a comprehensive list. There are designated Tornado Protective Areas in each unit and members should contact their Unit Emergency Management Program Representative for designated locations and information. Some facilities are secure locations and may not be accessible for sheltering non-unit personnel.

LOCATION

- 45RS, 55 CONS
- 55 CG HQ
- Religious Education Center
- ACC Heartland Band/PA
- Commissary
- Security Forces Headquarters

PROTECTIVE AREA

- Basement
- 1ST Floor hallways (away from the doors)
- Basement
- Basement Storage
- Cold Storage Area
- Inner rooms

Fire Department	Inner Sleeping Quarters/Restrooms
Martin Bomber Building	Lower level Interior Corridors
Law Center	Basement/1st Floor hallway
Defense Language Center	Basement
Hangars 4,5,6	Hangar 5, lower level
55 MSG	Basement
Whiteman Hall (Airman Dorm)	1st Floor hallway
Kisling Hall (Airman Dorm)	Basement/1st floor hallway
Turner Hall (Airman Dorm)	Basement/1st floor hallway
Tuskegee Hall (Airman Dorm)	Basement
338 CTS	Interior office & briefing room
Dougherty Center/Malmstrom Inn	Lower hallway & interior conference rooms
O'Malley Inn	Lower hallway
55 CS Maintenance Facility	Rooms 111, 116, 122, 130 & bathrooms
Bennie L. Davis MXS Facility	Interior offices, hallways and restrooms
55 WG/HQ	Inner hallways, offices, conference rooms, and vault
55 OSS	Interior offices and hallways
Veterinarian Clinic	RM 014
Maintenance Nose Dock	Interior rooms
343 RS	SCIF
STRATCOM	1st Floor hallway & basement
97 IS	1st Floor interior; Chaplain's Office, Interview Rm., restrooms
Telephone Exchange	Rooms 6, 12 & bathrooms
TMDE	Interior offices
STRATCOM	Interior offices
Navy AGE	Interior offices & hallway
1 ACCS, NAOC	Interior Rooms
Castle Hall	1st Floor hallway
Dyess Hall	1st Floor hallway
Fairchild Hall	1st Floor hallway
Transcom	Interior rooms
Satellite Communications	Interior rooms
E-4 Hangar	Interior rooms
55 ISS	Interior Rooms
Air Traffic Control Tower	1st Floor Stair Well
POL Facility	Interior offices
Capehart Chapel	Basement
EB Clinic/MCC/Ambulance Services	Lower level