

Tornadoes



Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms. In an average year, about 1,000 tornadoes are reported across the United States, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Tornadoes come in all shapes and sizes and can occur anywhere in the U.S. at any time of the year. In the southern states, peak tornado season is March through May, while peak months in the northern states are during the summer.

Remember, tornadoes occasionally develop in areas in which a Severe thunderstorm watch or warning is in effect. Remain Alert to signs of an approaching tornado and seek shelter if Threatening conditions exist. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.

The information above is an excerpt from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website. For Frequently Asked Questions About Tornadoes, go to the following website:
<http://www.outlook.noaa.gov/tornadoes/q%26a.htm>

For Tornado Alert Procedures, Huntsville Center employees should review their Occupant Emergency Plan (OEP) dated September 2009.

For additional information, go to the following Safety Office internet website and click on the Preparedness Guide for Tornadoes and Storms:

<http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/safety/organization/systems-eng/Safety/Safety%20Info/ttl.pdf>