

SPRING STORM SAFETY

COLLEYVILLE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Thunderstorms bring the threat of forceful straight-winds and tornadoes every season during this part of the year. We rely heavily on weather reports to warn us of approaching potentially dangerous storms. However, family members are extremely mobile in today's society and we cannot always count on everyone being in the "safest place" during these storms. Also, weather conditions can change rapidly and worsen in your area without warning. Knowing what to do, no matter where your family members are is important to their safety. Learn the basics of tornado safety.

IN YOUR HOME:

- *Be alert to changing weather.*
- *Use weather broadcast information, common sense, and experience to know when to take cover.*
- *Have a pre-planned and practiced family tornado drill for your home. The safest place to be during a tornado is underground, but if you have no basement or cellar, a small room in the middle of your home is best (a bathroom, or large closet with no, or as few windows as possible). If no such room is available, get under something sturdy, such as a table or workbench.*
- *Put together a family emergency kit in order to be prepared for any situation.*

AWAY FROM HOME:

- *When away from home or familiar surroundings and severe weather threatens, locate a suitable shelter for cover.*
- *If you work in a portable or manufactured type building (like a mobile home), you should seek safe shelter elsewhere at the first sign of severe weather. Even when these buildings have tie-downs, they are not*

suitable as shelter during a tornado or strong straight-winds. Have a pre-arranged place to go for shelter.

- *As a last resort, go outside and lie flat on the ground with your hands over your head and neck.*
- *Be alert for flash flooding that may occur during severe storms.*
- *Tornadoes can toss vehicles around like toys and even carry them for great distances before dropping them. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. If you see a funnel cloud, get out of your vehicle and seek a safe structure or lie down in a low area with hands over your head and neck—keep in mind the possibility of flash flooding in low-lying areas.*
- *Have an emergency plan at work and school. Know the plan. If a specific shelter does not exist, move to interior hallways or small rooms on the building's lowest level during a storm or tornado. Avoid areas with wide-spanned roofs/ceilings and areas with glass.*

REMEMBER DURING A:

TORNADO WATCH – **CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR A TORNADO, so be alert!**

TORNADO WARNING – **A TORNADO HAS ACTUALLY BEEN SIGHTED, so seek shelter!**

SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY KIT

It would be wise to put an emergency kit together for use during a tornado or other violent windstorms. It should be located for easy and quick access in an emergency situation. During threatening weather you should take your emergency kit and go to the room you have designated to be the safest in your home. Listen to the portable radio for updates.

The emergency kit should include the following:

- A battery operated portable radio (keep batteries fresh).
- A small quantity of high-energy foods; peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, etc.
- A first aid kit with bandages, aspirin, antiseptic.
- At least one blanket (more if you have room).
- Think about your particular situation. You may need medications, diapers, or other daily requirements—include a small amount of each.
- A deck of cards, or a small game in case you must be in the room for an extended period.

"SAFE ROOMS"

If you are fortunate enough to have a "safe room" in your home, then the kit should be kept there. You could keep more items for longer periods of time if you have a designated room of this type.

"Safe rooms" are extremely beneficial during storms and tornadoes. If your home is conducive to adding a "safe room" and you can afford the expense, it would be well worth the safety it provides during a tornado. Be sure that you select a reputable contractor to build a "safe room" in your home.

Things to Consider:

Important document safe container – insurance papers, Last Will & Testament, bonds, stocks, property deeds, passports, credit card information, and an inventory (preferably snapshots) of personal goods and valuables.