



Montour County Emergency Management Agency

Tornadoes and Downbursts

Tornadoes or Downbursts Can Accompany a Severe Thunderstorm

Tornadoes are violent, swirling, funnel-shaped clouds that extend to the ground.

- * The winds can range from 50 - 300 mph and their path of damage can be as long as 50 miles.
- * Tornadoes can happen during severe thunderstorms.
- * Tornadoes can uproot trees, destroy buildings and turn harmless objects into deadly missiles.
- * A **Tornado Watch** means that a tornado is possible. Stay tuned to your NOAA radio or commercial radio or TV for additional information.
- * A **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been spotted, take shelter immediately
- * The safest place during a tornado is in the basement. If a basement isn't available than go to an interior room or hall or closet on the lowest level of the building.
- * If outside or in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and go to a nearby basement or substantial structure. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in a ditch, ravine or culvert

Downburst or Straight-line Winds accompany severe thunderstorms more often than tornadoes and can cause significant damage.

- * A **downburst** can produce winds exceeding 100 mph, causing damage similar to many tornados.

Programmable NOAA Weather Radios with a battery back-up are inexpensive and can be purchased at most stores selling electronics. Program your county code into your NOAA radio so when the National Weather Service declares a severe weather "warning" for your area the radio will sound a tone alerting you to the possibility of pending danger.