



APRIL–MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

# The Red Guide to Recovery

Resource Handbook for Disaster Survivors

## TORNADO SEASON PART TWO

*In this edition of the Red Guide to Recovery newsletter, we would like to address how to best keep you and your loved ones safe during a tornado and what steps to take after a tornado has hit.*

### DURING A TORNADO

If you're in a structure:

- Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Do not open windows.

If you're in a vehicle, trailer, or mobile home:

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.

If you're outside with no shelter:

- Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

Tornado season usually begins in March, and forecaster Accu-Weather predicts above-normal tornado numbers for 2012. The warmer-than-normal water in the Gulf of Mexico will provide the moist, unstable air to produce thunderstorms that spawn tornadoes.



Credit: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**1,894**  
total number of  
tornadoes in the U.S.  
(2011)

Source: Storm Prediction Center

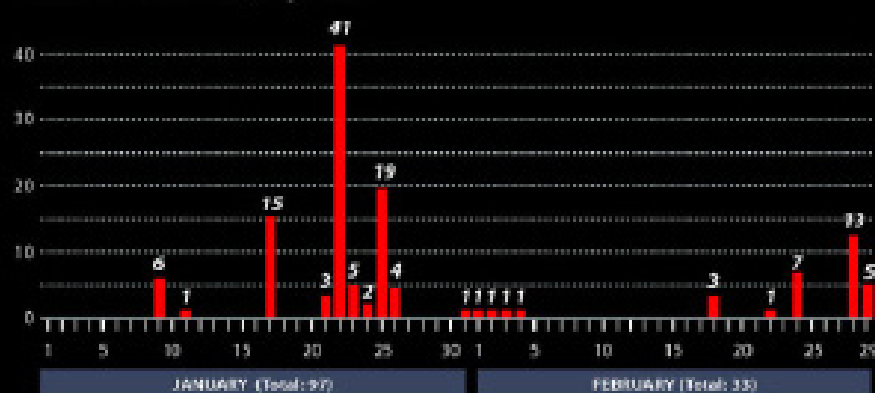
**550**  
Americans killed in  
tornadoes  
(2011)

Source: Weather Service

**\$28.7 billion**  
of damage caused  
by tornadoes  
(2011)

Source: U.S. National Climatic Data Center

#### Tornadoes in 2012, by date\*





## AFTER A TORNADO

- Continue to monitor your battery-powered radio or television for emergency information.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.
- Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than



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- candles to light homes without electrical power. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood or other flammable items. Never leave a candle burning when you are out of the room.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside your home, basement, garage or camper - or even outside near an open window, door or vent. Carbon monoxide (CO) - an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if you breathe it - from these sources can build up in your home, garage or camper and poison the people and animals inside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseated.
- Hang up displaced telephone receivers that may have been knocked off by the tornado, but stay off the telephone, except to report an emergency.
- Cooperate fully with public safety officials.
- Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by police, fire fighters, emergency management and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts and you could endanger yourself.

information from <http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE: WE WILL BE SHARING TIPS ON DISASTER SCAMS**

For more information on disaster preparedness and recovery or to obtain the Red Guide to Recovery, please visit [www.theredguidetorecovery.com](http://www.theredguidetorecovery.com)