



The Red Guide to Recovery

Resource Handbook for Disaster Survivors

TORNADO SEASON PART ONE

When first responders and emergency personnel leave the scene of a disaster, the survivors often make ill-informed decisions that too often have serious long term effects. The Red Guide to Recovery- Resource Handbook for Disaster Survivors was created to assist the disaster survivor by making available a single source of pertinent disaster recovery information that gives them a valuable tool in their efforts to recover and rebuild. The Red Guide to Recovery will also help communities have the ability to be prepared before a disaster strikes as well as be more resilient after one. "Individuals and families need to prepare for and manage their own recovery to the extent possible. Those who prepare not only reduce personal stress and enhance their ability to undertake their own recovery, but can also shape the future of their community by their resilience to an event and the choices they make during the recovery process. To the extent that individuals and families can adequately prepare for disasters and participate in recovery efforts, the more successful the recovery outcomes will be." *FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework Draft*

For this edition of our newsletter, we would like to share some useful tips regarding tornadoes.....

BEFORE A TORNADO

Quick facts you should know about tornadoes:

- They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.



- Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm, but can occur at any time.

HOW TO BE PREPARED

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

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

GET THE FACTS ON TORNADES

also known as *cyclones* or *twisters*

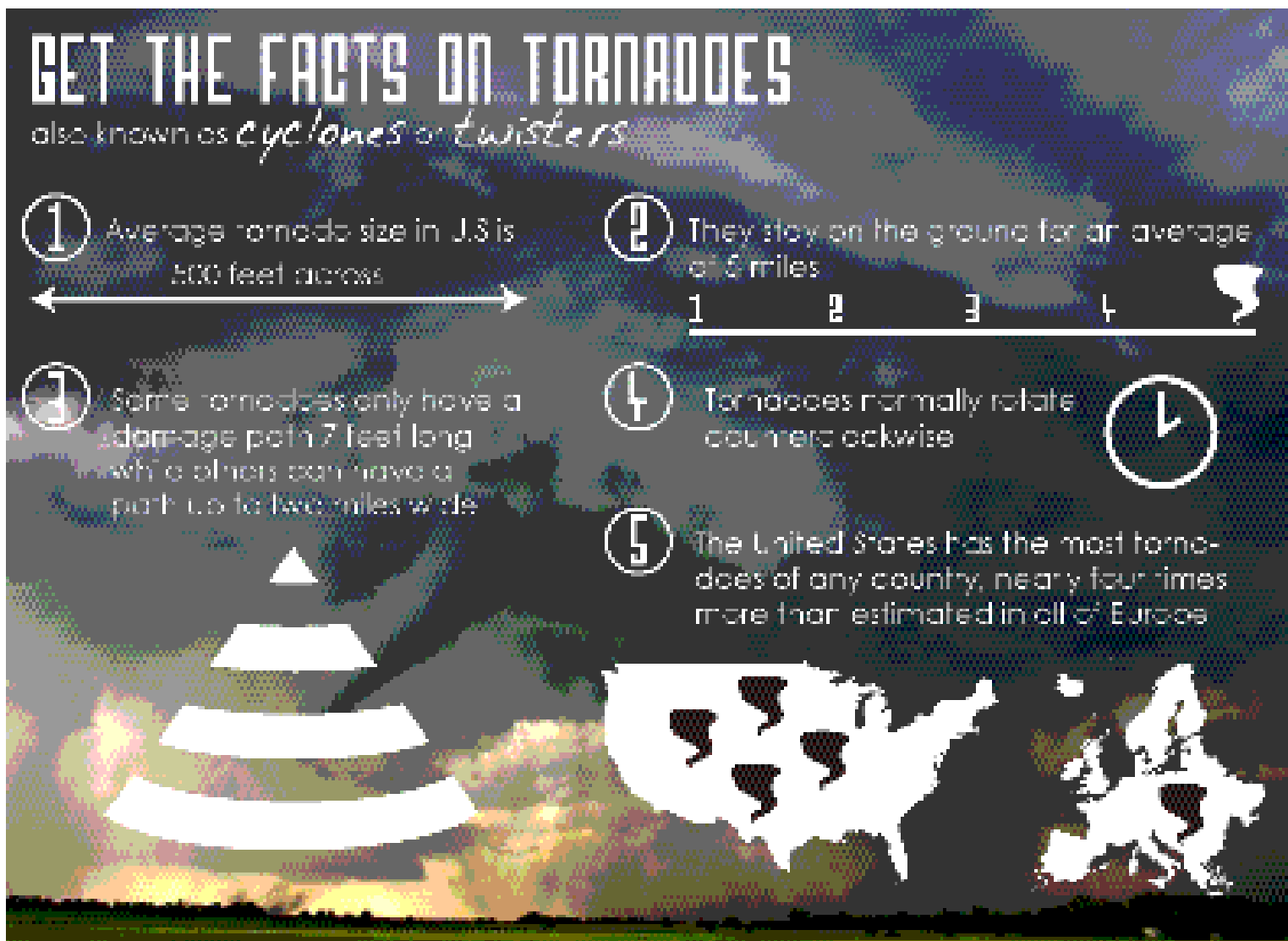
1 Average tornado size in U.S is 500 feet across

2 They stay on the ground for an average of 5 miles

3 Some tornadoes only have a damage path 7 feet long while others can have a path up to two miles wide

4 Tornadoes normally rotate counterclockwise

5 The United States has the most tornadoes of any country, nearly four times more than estimated in all of Europe



The Red Guide is available digitally!

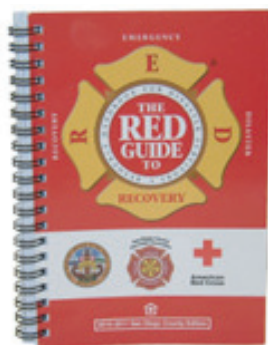
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IN THE NEXT ISSUE: WHAT TO DO AFTER A TORNADO