



# City of Somersworth

## Fire Department

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## **TORNADO SAFETY**

With the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma, the following information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New Hampshire Homeland Security is provided for public usage. Other information is available at [www.nh.gov/ReadyNH](http://www.nh.gov/ReadyNH).

Before any weather or man-made emergency occurs, you should have an “Emergency Kit” ready (3 gallons of water: non-perishable food: battery-powered radio: flashlights and extra batteries: First Aid Kit: can opener: whistle: dust masks: moist towelettes: garbage bags: wrench/pliers: cell phone and car charger for it: feminine supplies: extra clothes: important papers).

You also should have a “family plan” that includes where to assemble inside or outside your home or apartment and how you will contact family members before and after a disaster situation.

Every state is at some risk for tornadoes and the damage that they cause. Usually the weather conditions give a clue as to the possibility of a tornado and the news media does a good job at getting the information out quickly if a *tornado watch or warning* is issued by the National Weather Service. Sometimes, however, tornadoes develop so rapidly that no warning can be given.

If you are suddenly faced with a tornado emergency:

- seek shelter **IMMEDIATELY**
- many head injuries occur due to flying debris, so cover your head
- go to pre-designated shelter; cellar; safe room; or the lowest level in the building. Put as many WALLS between you and the outside as possible
- if there is NO basement – go to the center of the center-most room and get under a sturdy table, etc. away from walls, windows or doors
- wear sturdy shoes
- have a battery-powered radio to monitor events

Once the tornado passes and you venture outside, be sure that the weather situation allows for it. There may be many environmental hazards, such as:

- loose power lines and gas leaks
- structural damage
- debris that is unsafe to climb or walk over
- use the “Emergency Kit” to stay safe and monitor the situation until help arrives