

Emergency Preparedness



Emergency Preparedness

- Be aware of and knowledgeable about the natural disasters that could occur in your area.
- Have a plan in place for fire, tornado, flood or other applicable scenarios to protect your customers and your staff.

You Have To Have A Plan

- Identify the situations or disasters you might face on your farm and create plans for each. Include aspects like:
 - Evacuation (provide building or site maps)
 - Where will people go?
 - **Educate your staff ahead of time**
 - Keep your shelter location stocked of necessities (more on this later)



Rainy Day Plans

Rubber boots for everyone

- Every farm should have a Plan B or Rainy Day Plan but what about a severe weather plan B?
 - Should you cancel a scheduled event due to a bad weather forecast?
 - If you decide to host that event, how can you educate guests to the farm of proper procedures?
 - Who will monitor the weather during the event and alterations to plans for that event?

Post Emergency Directions

- Along with site maps, include SIMPLE posted directions for guests.
 - Don't think yelling over a crowd during an emergency will give them all the appropriate directions they need. If you have it, use a PA system but also have directions posted as a back-up.

Fire

- Whether inside or outside, fire could occur and you need to make sure there are clear paths and directions for customer safety.
- In buildings, most fire codes require EXIT signs over doors for fire evacuation.
- Be sure staff and visitors know your protocol.
- Instruct parents or adults with children that they are responsible for their young people.

Dangers of Tornadoes

- The destruction and injury caused by a tornado depends on the intensity, size, path, time of day, and amount of time they are on the ground. Wind from tornadoes can reach more than 200 miles per hour, and damage paths can be more than 1 mile wide and 50 miles long.
- Damage can range from light to catastrophic. Injuries can be minor, serious, or life-threatening. Fatalities can result even in the lower-rated tornadoes (EF0/EF1). Wind from tornadoes can cause structural damage, transform debris into deadly projectiles, move and destroy houses, debark trees, and roll cars.
- A tornado may disrupt transportation, power, water, gas, communications, and other services in its direct path and in neighboring areas.
- Heavy rains, flash flooding, and hail can occur from related thunderstorms

TORNADO WARNING SIGNS

1

A rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm toward the ground may be visible.

2

An approaching cloud of debris, especially at ground level, can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.

3

A loud roar that sounds similar to a freight train.

4

A strange quiet occurring within or shortly after a thunderstorm. The wind may die down and the air may become very still.

5

Debris dropping from the sky.

6

A change in the color of the sky.

Emergency Notifications

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues a tornado watch when weather conditions in an area indicate an increased risk for severe weather that may be capable of producing a tornado.

NWS issues a tornado warning when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Get more information about [Warning Systems & Signals](#).

Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, do an Internet search with your town, city, or county name and the word “alerts.”

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon>

BEST PROTECTION

The best protection in all tornadoes is provided by a structure built to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) safe room or the International Code Council (ICC) 500 storm shelter standards. These structures provide near-absolute protection

MODERATE PROTECTION

In a sturdy building, a small, interior, windowless room, such as a closet or bathroom, on the lowest level of the building provides moderate protection. A floor below ground is best. In these locations, use additional personal cover. Use what is available to cover yourself, such as a coat or blanket, and cover your head and neck with your arms. To make sure you know the safest location in a building, called the Best Available Refuge Area, get an evaluation by a qualified architect or structural engineer. This is the most commonly available protective action for tornadoes.

MINIMAL/INADEQUATE PROTECTION

Some locations do not provide protection from tornadoes, including: manufactured (mobile) homes/offices, the open space of open-plan buildings (e.g., malls, big retail stores, and gymnasiums), vehicles, and the outdoors

America's PrepareAthon!
www.ready.gov/prepare

Do You Need A Safe Room?

Building owners should ask themselves several questions when considering whether to install a safe room:

- What is my risk of tornadoes and/or hurricanes?
- What existing refuge options do I have if a tornado
- or hurricane occurs in my location?
- What level of safety am I comfortable with?
- How feasible is it to construct a safe room, and what
- are the costs?

Emergency Planning and Emergency Supply Kit

You can take two important steps to provide protection for you, your family, or employees during a hurricane or tornado:

1. Put an emergency supply kit together.
2. Prepare an emergency plan
 - notifying local emergency managers, first responders (local fire stations), and family members or others outside the immediate area that you have a safe room. Register the precise coordinates (latitude and longitude) of the entrance to the safe room with your local officials (note that this should be done once the safe room is constructed, rather than waiting until an extreme wind event is imminent). This will allow emergency personnel to find and quickly free you after the storm if the exit from your safe room becomes blocked by debris.

Emergency Supply Kit

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

FOOD:

- An adequate supply of water for each person in your home or small business (1 gallon per person per day)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable foods that do not have to be prepared or cooked (if these include canned goods, remember to include a manual can opener)
- Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups, paper towels, etc.

MEDICAL:

- First-aid kit
- Necessary prescription medicines
- Bandages
- Antibiotic ointment

TOOLS:

- Flashlight (one per person)
- Battery-operated radio or television and NOAA* Weather Radio
- Cellular phone or Citizens Band radio

SPECIAL ITEMS:

- Babies – formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk
- Children – entertainment items such as books, games, or toys
- Adults – contact lenses and supplies, extra glasses, and a sufficient supply of prescription medications
- Pets – appropriate supplies such as water (1/2 gallon per day), food, leash, ID tag, carrying container, etc.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Important documents such as insurance documents, a list of all your important contacts (e.g., family, doctors, insurance agents), banking information, leases/ mortgage, proof of occupancy (such as a utility bill), and a waterproof container in which to keep these documents
- Paper and pencil
- Electronic device chargers
- ABC-rated** fire extinguisher
- Dust masks to help filter contaminated air

TOOLS, cont.

- Extra batteries for these tools
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off gas and water)
- Tools to open damaged doors (e.g., a crowbar, jack, spreader)
- Insect repellent and sunscreen

PERSONAL:

- Personal hygiene items such as hand wipes and toilet paper
- Portable chemical-type toilet receptacle
- Extra change of clothing per person (store in plastic trash bags to keep clean and dry)
- Appropriate outer wear (e.g., sunglasses, ponchos, jackets, gloves, headwear, boots, etc.)
- Bedding materials such as pillows and blankets or sleeping bags for each person

* The NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby NWS office. NWR broadcasts NWS warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, as well as post-event information for all types of hazards, both natural and technological. NWRs are available at electronics stores across the country and range in cost from \$25 up to \$100 or more, depending on the quality of the receiver and number of features. The NWS does not endorse any particular make or model of receiver. For more information on what to look for in a weather radio, please see Recovery Advisory 5, "Critical Facilities Located in Tornado-Prone Regions: Recommendations for Facility Owners," of FEMA P-908.

** ABC refers to fires originating from three types of sources: A – paper, wood, or fabric; B – gasoline or oil; or C – electrical.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS, cont.

- Roofing tarps or plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Roll of large heavy-duty trash bags and ties
- Money (cash)
- An audible sounding device that continuously charges or operates without a power source (e.g., canned air horn or whistle) to signal rescue workers if safe room egress is blocked, and hearing protection (e.g., ear plugs or ear muffers) for each occupant
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – when diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Local maps

For more information, refer to the **Business Emergency Plan** at www.ready.gov/business.

Resource list

- *TAKING SHELTER FROM THE STORM*, http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1418837471752-920f09bb8187ee15436712a3e82ce709/FEMA_P-320_2014_508.pdf

- You can get more information about safe rooms from FEMA publications, which you can obtain free of charge by visiting the FEMA Library online at FEMA.

gov/resource-document-library, calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520, by faxing your request to FEMA at 240-699-0525, or by writing to FEMA Distribution Center, 4440 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD 21704. These publications include the following:

Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms, FEMA P-361

Safe Room Resources DVD, FEMA 388

Tornado Protection – Selecting Refuge Areas in Buildings, FEMA P-431

- You can also find helpful resources at www.ready.gov, a website dedicated to preparedness maintained by the Department of Homeland Security. Hurricane- and tornado-specific documents on READY.gov include suggested emergency supply kits, food and water suggestions, being informed about alerts, and making a plan to protect your family, among many other topics.

Violent Intruder Plan

Lockdown or Violent Intruder Drills

- Unfortunately this type of event is all too familiar and even though we think it won't happen close to us or we think, "why would they come to a farm?" ... you have to be prepared.

School Response

- In schools across the nation, response to a reported violent intruder on the premises includes locking classroom doors, covering windows, barricading doors, hiding behind overturned tables and avoiding doors and windows.
- What can your response be?

Violent Intruder on Farm

- Your response could be similar to a tornado threat - take everyone to a safe room that is secure.
- Similar to registering your tornado shelter with local officials, make sure someone outside your employees knows your plan for this situation. I.E. would police know to look for you in the storm shelter?

Secure Area

- Who is watching your entrance and could report an intruder?
- How could they communicate a threat to everyone on your property?
- Once again, make sure your staff know the protocol for such an event.

CPR/First Aid Certifications



First Aid Stations

- Have clearly marked First Aid Station(s) on your farm.
- Identify trained personnel to conduct first aid.
- Report injuries with an incident report form for a paper trail.



CPR Certification

There are many First Aid and CPR certifications offered:

- American Red Cross
- American Heart Association
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute
- American Safety and Health Institute

Find more information at <http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/prvdrs/lic/train/docs/trainrellinks.htm>

- Other possible locations:
Local tech schools or universities
Community centers

Cost: Free or up to \$70 per class

Keep It Current

- CPR certification is good for two-years and then must be renewed.
- Your certified instructor will issue you a card upon completion of courses. Maintain a copy for your records.