Tornado Safety

Meteorologists can predict when and where tornadoes might form. When weather conditions are likely to result in a tornado, meteorologists announce a “tornado watch.” When a tornado has been spotted, a “tornado warning” is issued.

If a tornado is near, people should take shelter in sturdy buildings. Basements and rooms without windows are the safest places. Mobile homes and cars do not offer enough protection. If caught outside, a person should stay close to the ground, preferably in a ditch.


Meteorology

Meteorology is the scientific study of weather. People who study and predict weather are called meteorologists.

Meteorologists use many instruments to gather information about weather. The thermometer and the barometer are some of the oldest and most common weather instruments. The thermometer measures temperature, and the barometer measures atmospheric pressure. Atmospheric pressure is also called barometric pressure. This is the weight of the air as felt at any given spot on Earth. Another common instrument is the wind vane, which shows the direction in which winds are blowing.