

The National Weather Service Office in San Angelo invites your school to participate in our 18th annual

Tornado Drill for Schools ***On Wednesday, March 8th at 10:00 A.M.***

March 6-11, Severe Weather Awareness Season begins. Severe weather may strike with only a few minutes of advance warning. Do you have more than one way to receive a warning?

At approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 8th, the National Weather Service in San Angelo encourages all schools to practice their tornado drills. We will transmit a special message about the drill through NOAA All Hazards Radio. Some of your local radio and TV Stations, and emergency management offices may also carry this message.

We will transmit the message for the following counties: **Throckmorton, Haskell, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, Sterling, Coke, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Crockett, Schleicher, Menard, Sutton, Kimble, and Mason counties.**

For more information, please contact Hector Guerrero at hector.guerrero@noaa.gov or Dr. Steve Lyons at steve.lyons@noaa.gov or you can call us at 325-944-9445.

Hector Guerrero
Warning and Coordination Meteorologist

Steve Lyons
Meteorologist in Charge



Two Safety Rules that Could Save Your Life

Safety rule number 1- *Be sure you can receive warnings from the National Weather Service*

Don't depend on sirens. Have more than one way to receive your warnings like your cell/smart phone and weather radio.

Sirens are used to warn those who are outdoors, and may not be loud enough to awaken you in the middle of the night. NOAA Weather Radio is like a smoke detector that can warn you anytime, both indoors and outdoors. This radio will produce a loud sound when a tornado warning is issued.

Safety rule number 2- *Know what to do*

The safest place to survive violent, killer tornadoes is in an approved underground storm shelter or in an approved above ground storm shelter.

The next safest place is on the lowest floor of your home, school or business in an interior room like a closet, hallway, or bathroom. Stay low to the ground and cover yourself with blankets, pillows, and/or mattresses.

If a tornado approaches and you live in a mobile home, abandon it for a more substantial shelter. If nothing is available, lie flat in a nearby ditch covering your head and neck.

Tornadic storms can also produce flash flooding. Watch out when you come to a flooded low water crossing. Always Turn Around, Don't Drown!

When severe weather threatens West Central Texas, your National Weather Service closely coordinates with local emergency managers, volunteer fire fighters, law enforcement officials, SKYWARN storm spotters, storm chasers, and the media to help keep you safe. But you can be your best source for protection when you get a warning from the National Weather Service if you are "weather ready."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your nearest local emergency manager or you can call us the National Weather Service at 325-944-9445.

TORNADO SAFETY RULES

If at home:

If you have a tornado [safe room](#) or engineered shelter, go there immediately.

Go at once to a windowless, interior room; storm cellar; basement; or lowest level of the building.

If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.

Get away from the windows.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.

Use arms to protect your head and neck.

If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.

If at work or school:

Go to the area designated in your tornado plan. This is usually the most interior room, on the lowest floor without windows.

Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, or shopping malls.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.

Get down low with your head against the wall and use your arms to protect head and neck.

If outdoors:

If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building.

If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter: Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.

If in a car:

If you encounter flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:

Stay in your vehicle with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.

If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances