HOW UNPREPARED ARE YOU FOR A TORNADO?
Know Your Area

North Central Texas Region

- Population – 6.9 million
- Size – 12,800 square miles
- Geography – centered over the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex and includes 16 counties:
  - Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wise, Rockwall, Somervell, and Tarrant

Collin County

- Population – 897,510 people
  (Plano 274,960)
- Size – 841 square miles
  (Plano 72 square miles)
**WATCHES VS. WARNINGS**

**What’s the difference?**

**Watch:** Conditions are **favorable** for the weather event in or near the watch area. When a watch is announced, stay alert and be ready to take action.

**Warning:** Weather event is **imminent or occurring** in the warned area. Take action based on the emergency at hand.
EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS

Staying Informed
TV/Radio Broadcasts
NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio
Outdoor Warning Systems
Emergency Alert System
Highway Messaging
Plano CityCall

Wireless Emergency Alerts (NEW)
IN PLANO:

- NWS Issued Severe Thunderstorm Warning with winds forecast over 70 mph
- NWS Issued Tornado Warning, naming Plano
- Hail of 1 1/2” or greater (ping pong ball or larger)
- Confirmed sighting of a tornado

Plano has 13 sirens at this time and 3 more scheduled to be installed.
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM
& LIGHTNING

Thunderstorm Facts

- In North Central Texas, most severe thunderstorms happen in the afternoon.
- The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes.

In North Central Texas, from 2007 to 2016

- 18 Tornadoes Per Year
- 279 Severe Thunderstorm Events Per Year
- 55 Flash Flood Events Per Year
Severe Weather Days Per Year From 2003-2012 Reports

Days with at least one tornado, wind, and/or hail report within ~25 miles.

National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM & LIGHTNING

Safety Tips

If you can hear thunder, you’re close enough to be struck by lightning.

Move to a sturdy building and stay away from the windows, if sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hardtop vehicle and keep windows up.

Get out of boats and away from water.

Unplug appliances and avoid using land line telephones except in an emergency.
When a Tornado Watch or Warning has been issued, look out for

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud/Supercell (a heavy, lowering cloud that is rain-free and may begin to rotate)
- Large hail
- Loud roar; similar to a freight train
- Have your 72 Hour Kit ready
TORNADO

SAFETY TIPS
Seek shelter
Stay away from the windows
Don’t try to outrun a tornado in your car
Advance warning is not always possible
Move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture

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Enhanced Fujita Scale
FLOODING & FLASH FLOODS

- **6 inches** of fast moving water can knock over an adult
- **2 feet** of water can carry away most vehicles

What's the difference between a flash flood and a normal flood? Flash flooding occurs during heavy rain events and happens very quickly. It ends quickly as well. Regular flooding occurs as the result of a more prolonged rain event, lake overflow, or dam failure. It's more gradual, more predictable, and lasts longer.

More people die from Flooding than any other severe-weather related hazard...
WINTER WEATHER

SAFETY TIPS

Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing

Ensure that your heating source is working

Ensure the wellbeing of your animals

Avoid driving on overpasses and bridges

Winterize your car

Winterize your pipes

Black Ice is caused by extremely cold rain droplets that form a film of clear ice on roadways. It’s hard to see and extremely slick, so look out for this hazard when the temperature drops near freezing!
EXTREME HEAT, DROUGHT & WILDFIRE

Hot Stuff, Get the Facts

Between 2004 and 2013, an average of 175 heat-related deaths occurred in the U.S. each year.

Older adults, young children, and those who are sick or overweight are most likely to suffer when the mercury rises.
EXTREME HEAT, DROUGHT & WILDFIRE

SAFETY TIPS

At Home
Stay out of the sun
Stay hydrated
Weather strip doors and sills
Install window air-conditioners snugly

Outdoors
Adhere to local water restrictions
Respect “no burn” days
Dispose of cigarettes responsibly
Dispose of hot charcoal in a non-flammable container or hose down before dumping
TERRORISM

See Something Say Something

Develop a disaster plan and ready your emergency supply kit

Check on school emergency plans for school-aged children

Identify an internal room where you can block out contaminated air

Follow directions from officials

Stay alert and informed at all times
All types of chemicals are rolling down our highways and railroads. Most get to their destinations; but, accidents happen.

Safety Tips
Stay aware of your surroundings
Prepare to use your senses to help you
Follow directions from officials
Prevent home chemical emergencies
Properly dispose chemicals you do not need

Store chemicals safely

Avoid mixing household chemicals

Never smoke while using household chemicals

Always use chemicals in well-ventilated areas

Know the Poison Control number: 1-800-222-1222

Most chemical accidents occur in homes and can be prevented!
PERSONAL SAFETY PLAN

- Include communications steps
  - Designate contacts

- Know what plans exist where your family members are: school, retirement homes, work

- Practice your plan

Know how to turn off utilities

Know how to operate fire extinguishers

Ensure adequate insurance coverage

Blank wallet cards for recording your communications plan can be found online at www.READY.gov.
EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

**Recommended Items**

- Duct tape
- Whistle
- Local maps
- Battery or hand crank radio
- Cash
- Weather Radio
- Dust mask
- Food
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Water
- First-aid kit
- Plastic sheeting
- Moist towelettes
- Wrench or pliers
- Garbage bags
- Manual can opener
EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Don’t Forget...

Access & Functional Needs for Family Members-
Prescriptions & equipment

Infants and Small Children

Pets

Remember: check and update your kit every year—test batteries, check expiration dates and update important documents.
VEHICLE EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Recommended Daily Items
Flashlight    First-aid kit    White distress flag
Tire repair kit, jumper cables, and flares

During an Emergency Add-
Bottled water and non-perishable food
Seasonal supplies to combat weather
Local maps
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Know the systems available and what actions to take

Local Emergency Alert Systems

Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio

Register for emergency alerts- In Plano- Plano.gov/2902/Emergency-Warnings
Sign up for City Call
Take the “Prepare" actions discussed

Use your knowledge
SEVERE WEATHER SHELTERING GUIDELINES

The safest place to be is underground or safe room

If not available, seek a small windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a structure

Mobile homes and vehicles should be abandoned for sturdy shelter

Highway overpasses are inadequate tornado sheltering areas.
SHELTERING-IN-PLACE VS. EVACUATION

Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet for official news & instructions

Sheltering-In-Place

- Hazardous Materials
- Biological contaminants
- Severe Weather

Evacuate

- Large gas leaks
- Damaged structure
- Take your pets with you

Depending on your circumstances and nature of the disaster, the first important decision is whether to shelter in place or evacuate.
If stuck outdoors with no options for shelter...Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.

If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. The following options are a last resort:

- Stay in the car 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.

- Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.
DISASTER RECOVERY

**Recommended Actions**

**Safety first**

- Be alert, the event may cause new safety issues
- Call your insurance agent and take pictures of damages
- Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs
- Use the phone only for life-threatening emergencies 9-1-1 is for emergency response only
- Seek disaster recovery assistance if needed

**Recovery Takes Time**
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

City of Plano Volunteer Opportunities

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Citizens Police Academy
- Citizens Fire Academy
Preparedness is a community effort, so KnoWhat2Do!

Words to live by.

Do you know what to do when disaster strikes?

Make your plans. ✓ Put them into action. ☑ Get involved.

Heat, Drought and Wildfire

Flooding/Flash Floods

Nuclear/Chemical/Biological

www.KnoWhat2Do.com