



THE MUNICIPALITY OF

KINCARDINE

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Be Weather Aware!

**Consider the potential for
severe weather when you
are planning your daily
activities.**

**Don't get caught outdoors
when thunderstorms
threaten.**

***Remember, severe
thunderstorms can
produce tornadoes!***

***For More Information
Contact the
Community Emergency
Management Coordinator***

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Phone: 519-396-2141 ext. 4

Tornado Warning Signs

Tornadoes are rotating columns of high-velocity wind that can bring devastation to anything in their path. Ontario averages 12 tornadoes per year. Most tornadoes occur in June, July and August although the season extends from April to September. They can occur at any time of the year. They frequently develop in mid-afternoon to early evening but can occur at any time of the day or night.

Environment Canada warns the public about tornadoes but because they are hard to predict and can move at up to 70 km/hr, a tornado can strike without warning. A tornado can be preceded by a severe thunderstorm which can be associated with black skies, strong winds and heavy rain or hail. Sometimes the sky will turn an unusual green colour and the wind can sound like a freight train.

Tornados can appear just after heavy rain or hail, at the rear base of a thunderstorm. Often a cloud of swirling debris or flash of electrical power lines can be seen along its path.

When a Tornado Threatens

- Take shelter immediately, if available, preferably in the basement or lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Stay away from windows, doors and exterior walls. Flying glass and debris are extremely dangerous.
- Do not open windows or doors since this could increase the likelihood of damage to the building.
- Outdoors, with no shelter available, lie flat in a ditch, ravine or other low-lying area, and shield your head with your arms.
- Don't get caught in a vehicle or mobile home, which the tornado can lift. Take shelter elsewhere or, if none is available, even lying in a ditch offers better protection.
- Choose a location where your vehicle won't be hurled or rolled on top of you. If you live in a mobile home, it is wise to identify a nearby sturdy shelter well in advance and go to that shelter when a severe storm is approaching.
- Beware of flying debris. Even small objects such as sticks and straw can become lethal missiles.



Tornado Watch Be Prepared!

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Acting early helps to save lives!

Watches are issued by Environment Canada for areas where tornadoes may occur. The watch area is typically large, covering numerous counties or even the entire region.

Tornado Warning

Take Action!

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property.

Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows.

If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

Warnings are issued by your local forecast office. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area (around the size of a city or small county) that may be impacted by a tornado identified by a forecaster on Radar or by a trained spotter/law enforcement who is watching the storm.

Your Best Shelter

- In a house, go to the basement and take shelter under a stairway or a sturdy work table in the centre of the house.
- In a house with no basement, the safest spot is the ground floor in the centre of the house. Small rooms tend to be more structurally sound so seek shelter in a hallway, small room, closet or bathroom (the plumbing may provide some structural stability). Lying in the bathtub with a mattress on top of you may provide good protection.
- In a vehicle or mobile home, get outside and find other shelter. North American officials still debate whether seeking shelter in a car during a tornado is safe. Some experts advise, if the tornado is weak, a car can offer protection against flying debris and rollovers if the occupants fasten seat belts and keep their heads down.
- However, there is no way of knowing how strong or violent a tornado is without the proper tools, so the safest strategy is to get out of the vehicle. As a last resort, lie in a ditch or culvert but be aware of flooding.
- Avoid wide-span buildings, such as barns, auditoriums, shopping centres and supermarkets with large roofs.
- Go to a nearby sturdy shelter, preferably, on the lower floor, an inside room, restroom or hallway, or get underneath a sturdy piece of furniture.
- At school, seek shelter in small windowless rooms such as a washroom instead of a gymnasium.
- Avoid areas near high walls or large chimneys which may collapse.
- In shopping centres, stay out of aisles and away from exterior walls and windows. Do not go to your parked car.
- In apartment buildings, move to lower levels, small interior rooms or stairwells. Stay away from elevators and windows.

