



## EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. The path of a tornado can be over a mile wide and extend for over 50 miles. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible.

### **Facts About Tornadoes**

- They may strike quickly with little or no warning.
- Tornadoes typically develop near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm.
- They may appear transparent until dust and debris are picked up or clouds form inside the funnel.
- Typical tornadoes move in the general direction from Southwest to Northeast, but they have been known to move in any direction.

### **Tornado Watch**

The National Weather Service issues a tornado watch when weather conditions indicate that a tornado is possible. When a tornado watch is issued, you should:

- Monitor local commercial media for tornado emergency information, updates, and instructions.
- Look for approaching storms, including the following danger signs:
  - Dark, often greenish sky, large hail.
  - A large, dark, low-lying cloud - particularly if rotating.
  - A loud, rumbling roar similar to a freight train.
- Listen for the emergency tornado sirens (Dane County/Edgewood College).

If you see an approaching storm, or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

### **Tornado Warning**

The National Weather Service issues a tornado warning when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. The Edgewood College tornado sirens are activated when a tornado is sighted nearby. When a tornado warning is issued, or the sirens sound, you should:

- Seek shelter immediately.

If indoors:

- Go to a designated shelter area immediately.
- Stay away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Put as many walls (and levels above) as possible between you and the outside.
- Get under a sturdy table and cover your neck and head with your arms.
- Do not open doors or windows.

If in a vehicle:

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy building. If there is no nearby building still get out – remaining inside a vehicle during a tornado is extremely dangerous.

If outside (with no available shelter):

- Lie flat in a ditch or depression covering the head with hands and arms – beware of potential flooding.
- Do not get under a bridge or overpass – it is safer in a low, flat location.
- Watch out for flying debris in the funnel – any object as small as a piece of straw can become fatal when traveling at several hundred miles per hour.

*Edgewood College  
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