

Long Span Buildings

Long span buildings are dangerous. The entire roof structure is supported solely by the outside walls. Inside walls are usually false or non-load bearing walls.

If you are caught in an open building like a shopping mall, civic center, indoor pool, theater, or gymnasium during a tornado, stay away from windows. Get into the restroom, if possible. In larger buildings, the restrooms are usually made from concrete block. Besides having four walls and plumbing holding things together, metal partitions help support any falling debris.

If there is not time to go anywhere, seek shelter right where you are. Try to get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris. For instance, in a department store, get up against heavy shelving or counters. In a theater, get under the seats. Remember to protect your head.

Schools, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Office Buildings

Extra precautions are needed in these structures. Not only is there a large concentration of people in a small area, but these buildings usually have large amounts of glass on the outside walls.

Get into the innermost portions on the lowest floor possible.

Avoid windows, glass doorways, and auditoriums and cafeterias not protected by overhead floors and rooms.

Do not use elevators; the power may go off and you could become trapped.

Protect your head and make yourself a small target as possible by crouching down.

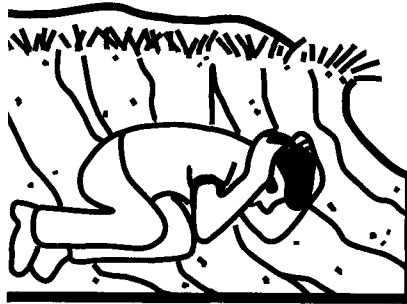
In the Open

If you are caught outside during a tornado and there is no underground shelter immediately available, lie in a gully, ditch, or low spot in the ground. Protect your body and head with anything available. Do not go into a grove of trees or under a vehicle.

Emergency services personnel are usually on the scene quickly after a tornado. Keep your family together and wait for help to arrive. Listen to the radio for information about disaster relief and assistance available from local authorities and volunteer agencies.

If you are outside, don't go into damaged buildings; they may collapse completely. Wait for help to search for others.

If your home appears undamaged, check carefully for gas or other utility line breaks. If the lights are out, use a flashlight only; do not use a match, lighter, or any open flame.



WHO SHOULD READ THIS BROCHURE?

This brochure is designed to provide a brief overview of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program for public officials, health and safety workers, emergency personnel and others.

WHAT IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION?