

Preparing for Tornadoes

Hi, I'm Olivia. More than 1,000 tornadoes hit the U.S. every year – the most of anywhere in the world! Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Tornado" on the main menu. Then join me on a training mission to learn how to stay safe when a tornado happens.

Note: You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Tornado training mission.

My Tornado Safety Score: _____



Part 1

A *tornado* is a spinning, funnel-shaped storm that reaches down from a thundercloud to touch the ground. Tornadoes happen when warm, moist air near the ground rises up through colder air above to form a thunderstorm. If the rising air begins to spin, it can become a tornado.

Do tornadoes happen often in your state? Visit www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events/us-tornado-climatology to find out. Use the main map to look up the average annual number of tornadoes in your state over the past twenty years. Write the answer in the space below. Then use the main map and the monthly tornado occurrence maps to answer the questions.

1. Average annual number of tornadoes in my state: _____
2. Which states average more than three tornadoes per month each year?

3. Which three months average the most tornadoes each year?

4. Based on your data, where and when should people be most on the lookout for tornadoes?

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Part 2

Do you remember your tornado safety training? Fill in the blanks below to show what you learned.

1. You should head for your safety spot when you hear a tornado _____ for your area.
2. Your tornado safety spot could be a storm shelter, a basement, a specially built “safe room,” or an interior room on the first floor that does not have any windows, like a _____ or _____.
3. When you are in your safety spot, get on your _____ and bend over to make your body as tight as a ball. Cross your _____ over the back of your _____ to protect yourself from things blown around by the wind.

Part 3

Tornadoes are the most destructive type of storm on our planet. Weather scientists use a scale to measure the force of a tornado based on its estimated wind speed and the destruction it causes.

Visit www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/f-scale.html, and click the links under Typical Damage to see what a tornado can do as it gets stronger and stronger. Then get together with a group of classmates, and brainstorm how we could design houses to help protect people from tornadoes.

To get started, find out about specially built “safe rooms” at www.fema.gov/safe-rooms. Sketch your ideas on the back of this sheet, then share your ideas in a class discussion.

Replay the
Monster Guard
Tornado training
mission. See if you
can score higher!

