

## TORNADO ACTION PLAN

**Production Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Production will monitor the local news, National Weather Service (<http://www.weather.gov/>) or the National Hurricane Center (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) on a daily basis for any signs of severe weather.

### TORNADOS:

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by twisting, funnel shaped wind spawned from powerful thunderstorms. Tornadoes tend to appear in the afternoon or early evening, but are unpredictable and may form without warning.

### Potential Hazards:

- Tornadoes are nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel
- Winds can exceed 200 to 300 mph
- The precise location of a touchdown point cannot be determined
- Have the ability to move in all directions

### PLANNING:

Create an action plan when preparing to use locations that may present an inclement or severe weather hazard. This action plan should include the following:

- A designated person who is responsible for monitoring potential inclement weather by commercial weather services, radio station news casts such as the NOAA Weather Radio, weather.gov, or local television news casts.
- A method for communication with cast and crew members in the event of inclement or severe weather. The communication methods should reflect the conditions and circumstances at the scene.
- Site specific procedures which include methods and routes of evacuation, meeting areas, a means of establishing a head count for cast and crew members and procedures for equipment shutdown, stowage and/or removal. Illinois has their own Emergency Management Agency (information below) which may be able to offer insight on possible evacuation routes.
- A safety meeting shall be held to review and communicate the elements of the action plan.

**Know the terms and danger signs:**

**Tornado Watch**- indicates a tornado is possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, local news casts, or commercial weather services for information.

**Tornado Warning**- signifies a tornado has been sighted or is indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

**Danger Signs:**

- Approaching storms
- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A Large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train

If you see any of the danger signs, and/or a tornado watch/warning has been issued, be prepared to initiate the action plan and seek shelter immediately!

**TORNADO WATCH/WARNING ISSUED:**

- If a watch or warning has been issued, the action plan should be activated.
- The crew should be regularly updated regarding any changes to potential weather conditions.
- All cast and crew members must follow all instructions given.
- No employees should be working on elevated equipment. This includes aerial lifts, scaffolds, camera booms, and other high areas.
- Evacuate the area immediately if instructed by a regulatory authority or production management.
- Only secure equipment if there is time and it can be done safely.

<b>If you are in:</b>	<b>Then:</b>
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.</li><li>• If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.</li><li>• Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.</li><li>• Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.</li><li>• Do not open windows.</li></ul>

If you are in:	Then:
A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter.</li> <li>• Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.</li> </ul>
The outside with no shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.</li> <li>• Be aware of the potential for flooding.</li> <li>• Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.</li> <li>• Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter. Watch out for flying debris.</li> <li>• Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.</li> </ul>

## References

Local or State Emergency Management Agency

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National Weather Service  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

National Hurricane Center  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Safety Bulletin #38 - Guidelines for Inclement or Severe Weather  
<https://www.csatf.org/production-affairs-safety/safety-bulletins/>