



**UNLIMITED RESTORATION, INC.**  
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RESTORATION

***We're On It!***

# Unlimited Restoration, Inc. | URI Presents

## 2024 Tornado Guide

Tornado season usually refers to the time of year the U.S. sees the most tornado activity. The peak “tornado season” for the southern Plains (ex: Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas) is from May into early June. On the Gulf coast, it is earlier in the spring. In the northern Plains and upper Midwest (ex: North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota), tornado season is in June or July. But, remember, tornadoes can happen at any time of year.

Planning and preparation are key to ensuring the safety of yourself, loved ones, your tenants, and your property, which is why we put together this guide full of resources to help prepare you for any potential storm activity. We’ve compiled resources that are applicable for property and facility management professionals, as well as for your tenants or yourself as a homeowner/renter.

### **We’re On It!**

“We’re On It” is not just a tagline used in our marketing. It’s at the core of who we are and what we do each and every day. It’s our company culture. That’s why when we say: when the unexpected occurs, you can rest assured with Unlimited Restoration - We’re On It! You can trust the URI Team to deliver on our brand promise of **response, execution, safety, and transparency.**

We hope you find this Tornado Guide useful. Should you have any questions, please reach out at: 888.327.9664 or [info@urinow.com](mailto:info@urinow.com).



# 2024 Tornado Guide

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Let's talk

# Tornadoes.

Did you know that about 1,200 tornadoes hit the U.S. annually? Let's review some fast facts about these deadly storms.

## What is a Tornado?

A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. Because wind is invisible, it is hard to see a tornado unless it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust and debris. Tornadoes can be among the most violent phenomena of all atmospheric storms we experience.

## Where is Tornado Alley?

Tornado Alley is a nickname given to a mix of states in the Central U.S. However, the idea of a "tornado alley" can be misleading. The U.S. tornado threat shifts from the Southeast in the cooler months of the year, toward the southern and central Plains in May and June, and the northern Plains and Midwest during early summer. Tornadoes can occur and have been reported in all fifty states!

## When are Tornadoes Most Likely?

Generally speaking, April - July are the most active months for tornado activity across the U.S. But, remember, tornadoes can happen at any time of year. Tornadoes can also happen at any time of day or night, but **most tornadoes occur between 4-9 p.m.**

## Emergency Resources

Here is a list of resources available to assist you during a major storm. Keep the following contacts handy in case of an emergency.

**FEMA**  
fema.gov  
800.621.3362

**Food Safety**  
fsis.usda.gov  
850.413.9969

**CDC Emergency  
Preparedness & Response**  
emergency.cdc.gov  
800.232.4636

## Recommended Resources to Follow

The following is a list of trusted resources you can count on for quality, accurate, and timely information ahead of and during any tornado activity:

**National Weather Service**  
weather.gov

**Ready.Gov**  
ready.gov/tornadoes

**Local Government &  
Authorities**



# Tornado

## Terms to Know.

What is the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING?

### Tornado Watch

A Tornado WATCH is issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for weather conditions that are favorable for tornadoes and severe weather. A watch can cover parts of a state or several states. Watch and prepare for severe weather and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio to know when warnings are issued.

### Tornado Warning

A Tornado WARNING is issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 over a designated area. This means a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the tornado. A tornado warning indicates that you should ACT NOW to find safe shelter! A warning can cover parts of counties or several counties in the path of danger.

### What do Storm Spotters Look For?

**Inflow bands** are ragged bands of low cumulus clouds extending from the main storm tower usually to the southeast or south. The presence of inflow bands suggests that the storm is gathering low-level air from several miles away. If the inflow bands have a spiraling nature to them, it suggests the presence of rotation.

The **beaver's tail** is a smooth, flat cloud band extending from the eastern edge of the rain-free base to the east or northeast. It usually skirts around the southern edge of the precipitation area. It also suggests the presence of rotation.

A **wall cloud** is an isolated cloud lowering attached to the rain-free base of the thunderstorm. The wall cloud is usually to the rear of the visible precipitation area.

As the storm intensifies, the updraft draws in low-level air from several miles around. Some low-level air is pulled into the updraft from the rain area. This rain-cooled air is very humid; the moisture in the rain-cooled air quickly condenses below the **rain-free base** to form the wall cloud.

The **rear flank downdraft (RFD)** is a downward rush of air on the back side of the storm that descends along with the tornado. The RFD looks like a "clear slot" or "bright slot" just to the rear (southwest) of the wall cloud. It can also look like curtains of rain wrapping around the cloud base circulation. The RFD causes gusty surface winds that occasionally have embedded downbursts. The rear flank downdraft is the motion in the storm that causes the hook echo feature on radar.

A **condensation funnel** is made up of water droplets and extends downward from the base of the thunderstorm. If it is in contact with the ground it is a tornado; otherwise it is a funnel cloud. Dust and debris beneath the condensation funnel confirm a tornado's presence.

# 10 Steps to Ensuring Property Resilience

from Tornado Activity

## 1 Develop a Comprehensive Plan

Begin by crafting a detailed severe weather preparedness plan tailored to your specific properties, buildings, and even tenants. This plan should encompass sheltering procedures, communication protocols, emergency contacts, and strategies for securing vulnerable areas.

## 2 Conduct Regular Inspections

Regular inspections of the property's infrastructure can help identify weak points that may exacerbate damage during a severe weather event. Pay close attention to roofs, windows, doors, and drainage systems, ensuring they are structurally sound and free of debris.

## 3 Reinforce Structures

Strengthen the building's resilience by reinforcing vulnerable areas such as windows and doors with impact-resistant materials.

## 4 Trim Trees & Shrubs

Overhanging branches and untrimmed foliage pose a significant hazard during severe weather, potentially causing damage to buildings and power lines. Trim trees and shrubs regularly to reduce the risk of debris and ensure they won't become projectiles in high winds.

## 5 Secure Loose Objects

Loose objects around the property, such as signage, outdoor furniture, and equipment, can become projectiles in strong winds, causing significant damage. Secure or store these items indoors before a tornado strikes to mitigate potential risks.

## 6 Backup Power Generation

Invest in backup power generation systems like generators or uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) to ensure vital systems remain operational during power outages. This includes critical infrastructure such as elevators, emergency lighting, and communication devices.

## 7 Establish Communication Channels

Clear and effective communication is essential before, during, and after a tornado. Establish multiple communication channels, including email, text alerts, and social media, to disseminate important information and updates to tenants, employees, and stakeholders.

## 8 Coordinate with Authorities

Stay informed about weather forecasts and advisories issued by local authorities. Collaborate with emergency management agencies and local authorities to stay abreast of evacuation orders, road closures, and other pertinent information.

## 9 Educate Tenants and Employees

Educate tenants and employees about severe weather preparedness protocols and emergency procedures. Conduct regular training sessions and drills to ensure everyone knows how to respond effectively in the event of a tornado or severe storm.

## 10 Develop a Recovery Plan

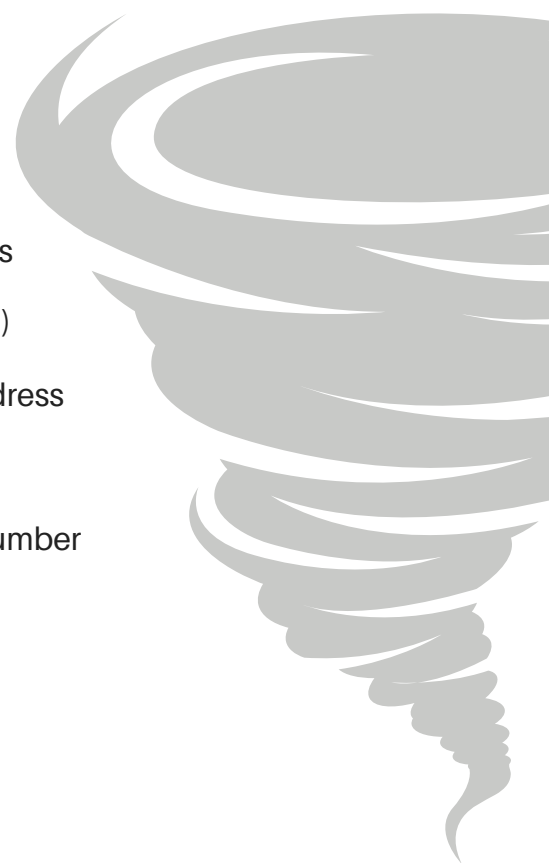
Prepare for the aftermath of a tornado by developing a post-disaster recovery plan. This should include procedures for assessing property damage, initiating repairs, and coordinating with insurance providers and contractors to expedite recovery efforts.



# Important Documents to Copy & Print

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- Family Contact Information Form (see page 9)
- Family Medication Form (see page 8)
- Health Insurance Cards
- Homeowner's Insurance Policy
- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Driver's Licenses and Vehicle Registration
- Copies of Credit Cards (Front and Back)
- Bank Account Information and Contact Numbers
- Inventory of Valuables in your Home (see page 7)
- Recent Service or Utility Bill with your Home Address
- Local and State Highway Maps
- Local Emergency Management Office Phone Number
- Local Law Enforcement Phone Numbers
- Local Utilities Phone Numbers
- County and City Government Phone Numbers
- Local Hospital Addresses and Phone Numbers
- Local American Red Cross Shelter Phone Number
- Local Radio Station Frequencies and Phone Numbers
- Maps to your Local Shelter



# HOME INVENTORY



Use the following home inventory form for each room in your home to make sure all your valuables are documented in the event of a major storm.

ITEM	PRICE	DATE	BRAND
<b>Furniture</b>			

<b>Electronics</b>			

<b>Other</b>			





# FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION



Out-of-Town Contact:	Contact Number:
Local Meeting Spot:	Phone Number:
Evacuation Shelter:	Phone Number:

**Provide the following for each family member and update with any changes.**

Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:

**Create a list of where people may be found throughout the day and how to reach them.**

Family Member:	
Location 1:	Location 2:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Family Member:	
Location 1:	Location 2:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Family Member:	
Location 1:	Location 2:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Family Member:	
Location 1:	Location 2:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:

**Provide the following for each family member and update with any changes.**

Important Contacts	Company Name	Phone Number	Policy Number
Medical Insurance			
Homeowner's Insurance			
Veterinarian			



# Protective Actions for **Tornadoes**

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- Safe rooms and storm shelters save lives. Installation of a safe room built to FEMA standards, and storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards is the best protective action.
- If a storm shelter or safe room is unavailable, the attributes that provide the next best protection are small, interior, windowless rooms in a sturdy building on the lowest level (underground is best).
- Buildings with high occupancy, large span roofs such as multi-story office buildings, schools, malls, and sports arenas require review by trained architects or engineers to determine the Best Available Refuge Areas (BARA) for occupants. General guidance does not apply to the variations in building structures.
- Manufactured structures are completely unsafe in a tornado. Fatality rates were significantly higher than sturdy buildings. An alternative shelter should be identified prior to a tornado watch or warning.
- While there is research to support the use of a vehicle as a “last resort,” no research on the efficacy of below ground level outdoor locations was found.
- Tornadoes have the ability to cause massive and total destruction. There is evidence of significant injury and even death resulting from participation in cleanup activities.

## **Key Messages**

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- If you are under a tornado warning, find safe shelter right away.
- Go to a safe room, basement, or storm cellar.
- If there is no basement, get to a small, interior room on the lowest level.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- If you can safely get to a sturdy building, do so immediately.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You’re safe in a low, flat location.
- Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

# Staying Safe During & After

## During a Tornado

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- Immediately go to a safe location that you have identified.
- Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.
- In a car or truck: There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less-dangerous ones.
  - If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado.
  - If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible -- out of the traffic lanes.
  - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible.
  - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
  - Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

## After a Tornado

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- Pay attention to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, and local authorities for updated information.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and continue to shelter in place.
- Wear appropriate gear during clean-up such as thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves, use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.





## After the Storm

# Reopening Checklist

### Pool Area

- Turn on pool & spa breakers
- Turn on pool & spa pumps
- Turn on gas to pool & spa heaters
- Thorough cleaning of pool & spa

### Domestic Pump Systems

- Check for proper operation & automatic setting
- Turn on pump systems

### A/C Cooling Towers

- Turn on power to towers & pumps at the breaker
- Turn on all hallway & lobby units & reopen A/C exhaust fan

### Boiler

- Turn on gas

### Emergency Generator

- Turn on the generator

### Shutters

- Open all shutters

### Parking Garage

- Turn gate power back on
- Replace electronics from gate house
- Resume power to gate house
- Turn on power to walk through gates & post signs
- Turn on all garage fans
- Remove sandbags
- Make sure drains are free from debris

### Elevators

- Turn all elevators back on
- Make sure the generator elevator switch is set to normal operation
- Open all vents & openings in top of hoistway
- Remove sandbags from around the machine room door

### Trash Chute

- Open trap

### Perimeter Areas

- Remove sandbags

# Tornado & Severe Storm Disaster Recovery



## **We're On It!**

### Storm Recovery Services



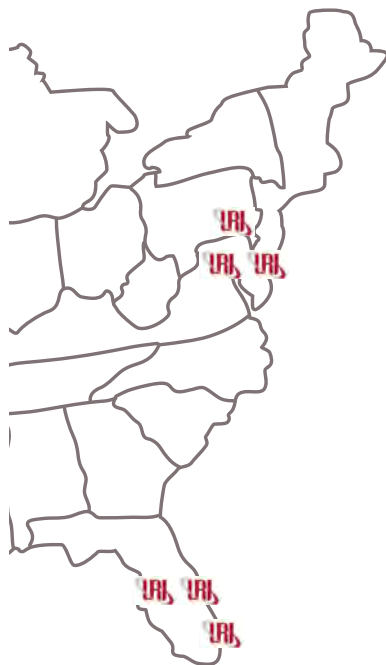
- Water Extraction & Structural Drying
- Remediation & Disinfection
- Temporary Roof Patching & Tarping
- Property Board-Up & Security Fencing
- Debris Removal Recovery
- Temporary Power Generators
- Fuel Replacement

### Stocked Equipment & Supplies



- Generators, Desiccants & Fuel
- Air Movers & Dehumidifiers
- Large Loss Water Extractors
- Tarping & Plywood
- Hydroxyl Machines
- Thermal & ULV Foggers
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Chemicals & Disinfectants

### URI Office Locations



#### **Philadelphia, PA - Corporate Headquarters**

705 General Washington Avenue, Suite 501  
Norristown, PA 19403

#### **Baltimore, MD**

3521 East Federal Street  
Baltimore, MD 21213

#### **Orlando, FL**

230 Sunport Lane, Suite Suite 350  
Orlando, FL 32809

#### **Tampa, FL**

4410 West Crest Avenue, Suite B  
Tampa, FL 33614

#### **Washington, DC**

7714 Old Alexandria Ferry Road  
Clinton, MD 20735

#### **West Palm Beach, FL**

820 North 8th Street, #2  
Lantana, FL 33462



### Unlimited Restoration Catastrophe Response Mobile Command Centers

\*The Catastrophe Response Mobile Command Centers are utilized when responding to severe weather events with regional impact to help facilitate response to more clients not in the URI core service territories.

**24/7 Support: 888.327.9664**



## Let's get started!

Offering 24/7 emergency service and restoration support, **Unlimited Restoration, Inc. (URI)** has minimized business interruption for commercial and industrial buildings experiencing property damage caused by fire, water, storm, or other disasters since 1996. With six strategically placed locations, URI provides dependable emergency response with timely arrival onsite to customers across the Mid-Atlantic and Florida.

URI is prepared to respond to customers across the East and Gulf Coast, experiencing catastrophic property losses that require the expertise, experience, and execution of our team. Pre-planning services are also available to support business continuity plans through the URI ERP (Emergency Response Plan).

[Learn More About Our ERP Here](#)



### URI Core Competencies

- 24/7 Emergency Response
- Water Mitigation
- Fire & Smoke Damage Restoration
- Catastrophe Response
- Large Loss Expertise
- Structural Drying
- Mold Assessment & Remediation
- HVAC/Duct Cleaning
- Selective Demolition
- Reconstruction
- Emergency Response Planning

### What to Expect from URI

**RESPONSE:** 24/7 dependable emergency response with timely arrival onsite  
**EXECUTION:** Expert and systematic process from scope to invoice on every job  
**SAFETY:** First-class protection for client and URI team health and safety  
**TRANSPARENCY:** Open, honest and consistent communication

**24/7 Emergency Response  
Hotline: 888.327.9664**