

# 2020 TORNADO/SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN Tyler / Smith County

## PURPOSE

This plan is designed to serve as a guide and to provide useful information to the public. Users of this plan are encouraged to direct all questions to the appropriate designated agencies.

***AS ALWAYS, IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, PLEASE CALL 911***

## SCIENCE

Tornadoes are a destructive force that in the United States occur an average 1300 times annually, resulting in an average of 80 deaths per year. In Texas alone, tornadoes occur an average of 137 times annually, resulting in an average of 8 deaths per year. A single tornado or an outbreak of tornadoes can kill dozens at one time and can cause widespread damage.

A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 300 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Likely conditions indicating a tornado include a dark, greenish sky, large hail, a wall cloud, and a loud roar similar to a freight train. Tornadoes may appear as a visible funnel extending partially or fully to the ground and may be accompanied by debris. While some tornadoes are clearly visible, they can be nearly transparent until they have picked up dust and debris, or they may be hidden or obscured by rain or low-hanging clouds.

Tornadoes can happen during any time of the year and at any time of the day. They may strike quickly and without warning. In East Texas, peak tornado season is from mid-March through mid-June. There is a second peak time for tornado outbreaks that occurs from September through October. Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Other hazardous conditions often associated with tornadoes include flash floods, lightning, damaging straight-line winds, and large hail. Hurricanes bring an increased threat of tornadoes to our region.


**TORNADO WATCH** - The National Weather Service has forecast that tornadoes are *likely to occur* in the watch area. Check supply kits. Be ready to act quickly and to take shelter. Monitor radio and television stations for more information.

**TORNADO WARNING** - A tornado *has been sighted in the area or has been indicated by radar*.  
**TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**

Most people who are injured or who die in a tornado are struck by flying debris or are crushed under falling objects or collapsing buildings. It is therefore imperative that proper precautions be taken before, during, and after a tornado.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

### **BEFORE A TORNADO**

- Sign up for  alerts
  - City of Tyler residents: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/bfb7cc4c6c0a>  
or click on the link at <http://fire.cityoftyler.org/Home.aspx>
  - Smith County residents: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BF6D585E457F>  
or click on the link at <http://smith-county.com/>
- Download the Red Cross “Emergency and First Aid” app from your smart device app store
- Listen for warning sirens, where available
- Monitor local TV and radio weather stations for the latest updates
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio
- Build an emergency kit ([www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)) and have a family communications plan ([www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan))
- Become trained in CPR and First Aid to include Bleeding Control. Encourage your friends and family to do the same
- Be alert to changing weather conditions and look for approaching storms
- Be prepared to take shelter immediately if you see any of the warning signs or if a tornado warning is issued for your area
  - Dark, greenish sky
  - Large hail
  - Large, dark, low flying clouds, especially one that is rotating
  - Loud roar, similar to a train

### **EXTRA MEASURES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

- Write down your specific needs, limitations, capabilities, and medications. Keep this list near you always--perhaps in your purse or wallet
- Find someone nearby (a spouse, roommate, friend, neighbor, relative, or co-worker) who will agree to assist you in case of an emergency. Give this person a copy of your list. You may also want to provide a spare key to your home, or directions to find a key
- Keep aware of weather conditions through whatever means are accessible to you, such as closed captioning or scrolled warnings on TV
- People with disabilities such as access and functional needs, including limited mobility, communication barriers, transportation assistance, personal care, and special medical assistance, should register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Register (STEAR)-Public. <https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/stear/public.htm>.
- If you do not have access to the internet, you can register for STEAR over the phone by dialing **211**.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ISOLATED/ELDERLY AT RISK INDIVIDUALS**

7-10% may not have a telephone. Action individuals or agencies include:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Local Fire Departments                                       | • Meals on Wheels         |
| • Neighborhood Crime Watch                                     | • Senior Citizen Center   |
| • Local Law Enforcement Agencies<br>(especially Beat Officers) | • Hospital Social Workers |
| • Emergency Medical Services (EMS)                             | • Home Health Nursing     |
|  | • Animal Control Officers |

- Church Volunteers
- Citizen Volunteers
- Friends and Family
- Public Health Case Managers/Outreach Workers
- Emergency Care Centers/Emergency Rooms/other Medical Facilities
- East Texas Council for Independent Living, for disabled residents

### **WELFARE CONCERN**

Should concern exist and a visit be necessary, please contact the Tyler Police Department at (903) 531-1000 or the Smith County Sheriff's Department at (903) 566-6600, or call 911.

### **DURING A TORNADO**

- **If you are in a sturdy shelter**
  - Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, a basement, a storm cellar, or the lowest level in the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level away from doors, windows, and outside walls.
  - Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and your neck.
- **If you are in a manufactured home or office**
  - Get out immediately. Go to a pre-identified location such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
- **If you are outside with no shelter**, there is no single research-based recommendation for what is the best last resort action that you should take, as many factors can affect your decision. However, possible actions include
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park. Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
  - If unable to reach a sturdy shelter, take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
  - Lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- **In all situations:**
  - Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
  - Watch out for flying debris. Most fatalities and injuries are caused by flying debris.

### **AFTER A TORNADO**

Many injuries occur after a tornado due to walking through damaged debris or upon entering or exiting damaged buildings. Proper care must be taken to avoid further injury or death.

- **General precautions**
  - Continue to monitor a battery powered radio for news and weather
  - Use battery powered flashlights. Do not use open flame, such as a candle
  - Cooperate fully with public safety officials
  - Do not enter damaged structures
  - Be aware of hazards from broken glass, nails, and debris

- Report downed power lines to 911. Do not touch downed power lines or objects that are in contact with downed power lines
- Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by public safety officials and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts and you could endanger yourself and others
- If your home is damaged, shut off utilities to avoid fire, electrocution, and explosion
- **Injuries**
  - Check for injuries
  - Call 911
  - Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury
  - If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR. If you are not trained in CPR, 911 will be able to guide you through the proper procedure.
  - If you are trapped, or if you discover someone who is trapped, try to attract attention to your location and notify 911. Only attempt rescue if the victim's life is in imminent danger and use extreme caution. If at all possible wait for First Responders to arrive.
- **Other unsafe conditions**
  - Immediately report all unsafe conditions to 911

## **SHELTERS**

### **Overnight Locations:**

- Salvation Army 24 hour shelter for homeless or near homeless with a capacity of 200. Additional space for 250 will be available in the Disaster Shelter. (903) 592-4361.
- Red Cross Open on demand, dependent upon declared emergency. Matt Brown, Disaster Program Manager, (903) 581-7981 or (903) 216-6786

### **Daytime Locations**

- Salvation Army 633 N. Broadway. Open 24 hours, 7 days a week. (903) 592-4361
- YMCA 225 South Vine with a capacity of 50 depending on daycare needs. Membership not required during emergency situations. (903) 593-7327
- Broadway Square Mall and others Public areas with air conditioning. On City bus route
- Movie Theatres
- Churches Check with individual church regarding activities and capabilities.
- Public Schools Depends on a declared emergency and whether school is in session

### **City of Tyler Daytime Facilities**

- Glass Recreation Center 501 W. 32nd St. Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., closed Sunday. Capacity of 100. Ann Santana (903) 595 7271
- Tyler Public Library 201 S. College. Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Estimated capacity of 120 individuals; additional capacity of 100 in Taylor Auditorium. (903) 593-7323
- Tyler Senior Center 1915 Garden Valley Road. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Estimated capacity 100. Kay Odom Supervisor (903) 597-0781.

- Rose Garden 420 Rose Park Drive. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Estimated capacity of 200. (903) 531-1212, or Todd Lestage (903) 531-1349

**Smith County Day Time Locations**

- Arp Sites:** Arp VFD  
Station #1: 107 W. Longview, Arp 75750  
Monday-Friday 7-6 pm
- Bullard Sites:** Bullard Community Library, 211 W. Main Street, Bullard, TX 75757  
Joanna Buntner, Director (903) 894-6125  
Bullard VFD  
Station #1: 213 S Houston St, Bullard 75757  
Monday-Friday 6am-3 pm
- Chapel Hill Sites:** Chapel Hill VFD  
Station #1: 13801 CR 220, Tyler 75707  
Monday-Friday 8-5 pm
- Dixie Sites:** Dixie VFD  
Station #1: 584 CR 1143, Tyler 75704  
Monday-Friday 7-4 pm
- Flint Sites:** Flint VFD  
Station #1: 18823 FM 2493, Flint 75762  
Monday-Friday 9am-6 pm
- Jackson Heights Sites:** Jackson Heights VFD  
Station #2: 19832 SH 31 East, Tyler 75707  
Monday-Friday 8-5 pm
- Lindale Sites:** Lindale Community Library, 200 E. Hubbard. Capacity 200  
Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,  
Friday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Closed Sunday and Monday (903) 882-1900
- Noonday Sites:** Noonday Community Library, 16662 CR 196 Tyler, Texas  
Noonday VFD Station #1: 16619 SH 155 S, Tyler 75703  
24/7 365
- Overton Sites:** None designated at this time
- Red Springs:** Red Springs VFD

Station #2: 11047 FM 14, Tyler 75706  
24/7 365

**Troup Sites:** Troup Community Library, 102 S. Georgia Street, Troup, TX 75789  
Tuesday through Wednesday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (903) 842-3101.  
Troup VFD:  
Station#1: 204 E Wilkinson, 75789  
Monday-Friday 8-5 pm

**Whitehouse Sites:** Whitehouse Community Library, 107 Bascom Road, Whitehouse, TX  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Whitehouse YMCA, 301 Terry St. (903) 839-9622  
Hours: Monday through Friday 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (903) 839-2949  
Whitehouse VFD  
20510 SH 110 S, Troup 75789  
Monday-Friday 8-5 pm

**Winona Sites:** Winona VFD  
Station #1: 1111 Dallas St, Winona 75792  
Monday-Friday 6am-3 pm  
Station #3: 22033 US-271 Gladewater, TX 75647  
Monday-Friday 8-5 pm

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK/HOTLINE**

Provides updated information to the public

- 2-1-1 Texas at United Way [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org)
- American Red Cross (903) 581-7981 [www.redcross.org/tx/easttexas](http://www.redcross.org/tx/easttexas)
- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361 [www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler](http://www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler)
- Northeast Texas Public Health District (903) 535-0020 [www.healthyeasttx.org](http://www.healthyeasttx.org)
- KTBB AM600/KRWR 92.1 FM (903) 593-2519, [jsims@ktbb.com](mailto:jsims@ktbb.com)
- KETK NBC56 (903) 581-5656 [newsroom-KETK@nexstar.tv](mailto:newsroom-KETK@nexstar.tv)
- KLTV Channel 7 (903) 510-7777 [newsroom@kltv.com](mailto:newsroom@kltv.com)
- KYTX CBS19 (903) 581-2211 [sjackson@cbs19.tv](mailto:sjackson@cbs19.tv)
- Tyler Morning Telegraph (903) 596-6265, [news@tylerpaper.com](mailto:news@tylerpaper.com)
- Alpha Media Group KOYE (LaInvasora) 96.7 FM, KKUS 104.1 FM, KYKX 105.7 FM, KOOI 106.5 FM, Sports AM 1370, 903-581-9966
- Town Square Media KTYL 93.1 FM, KKTX 96.1 FM, KNUE 101.5 FM, KISX 107.3, 903-581-0606
  
- Reynolds Radio Mega FM 99.3, The Blaze 102.7/106.9 FM
- MEGA 99.3 KAPW (903)-581-5259 Other Media (see telephone book)
- City of Tyler Access Channel, [www.cityoftyler.org](http://www.cityoftyler.org), or (903) 533-7444

- SMITH COUNTY PIO 1-903-590-4607
- ATMOS Gas Service 1-866-322-8667 to report a natural gas emergency (24/7)
- Center Point Energy 1-800-259-5544 to report a natural gas emergency (24/7)
- ONCOR 1-888-313-4747 to report down lines, power outages (24/7)
  
- **Health Care Facilities**
  - Christus Trinity Mother Frances - Telecare Plus (903) 531-5678 or (800) 535-9799
  - UT Health Tyler 903-597-0351
  - UT Health Center at Tyler Emergency Room (903) 877-7777

**WATER**

Bottled water **might be** available from:

- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361 [www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler](http://www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler)
- PATH (903) 597-4044 [www.pathhelps.org](http://www.pathhelps.org)

**DONATIONS OF MATERIALS**

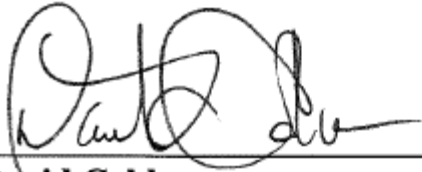
The following agencies working in close partnership will accept donations of food, water, and other supplies and appropriately distribute them. This includes donated transportation services:

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • PATH (903) 597-4044              | • Hangers of Hope (903) 944-7880 |
| • Salvation Army (903) 592-4361    | • KETK NBC 56 (903) 581-5656     |
| • KLTV Channel 7 (903) 510-7777    | • KYTX CBS 19 (903) 581-2211     |
| Goodwill Industries (903) 593-8438 | • Local Fire Departments         |

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

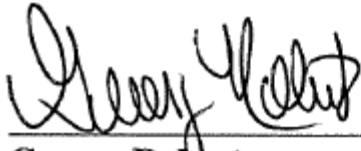
Should there be issues that are not addressed in this plan, or if you have additional questions, users are encouraged to contact the designated agencies listed in this document.

**REVIEWED:**



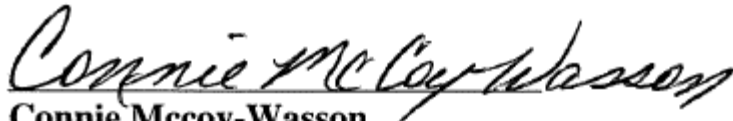
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**David Coble**  
**Fire Chief / Emergency Management Coordinator**  
**City of Tyler, Texas**



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**George Roberts**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Northeast Texas Public Health District**



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**Connie McCoy-Wasson**  
**Fire Marshall / Emergency Management Coordinator**  
**Smith County, Texas**