**Before a Tornado**

Tornadoes are known for developing so rapidly that little advanced warning is possible. Average lead time for tornadoes is 10 to 15 minutes, which is why Michigan citizens are encouraged to prepare and make a plan before a tornado strikes. To be ready before a tornado:

* Create an emergency preparedness kit for your home that includes the following items:
  + Water, at least three gallons of water per person, per day
  + Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food per person
  + Prescribed medications
  + Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
  + Flashlight and extra batteries
  + First aid kit and needed medications
  + Whistle to signal for help
  + Pet supplies
  + A complete change of clothing and footwear for each person
  + Bedding
  + Important family documents
  + Extra clothes and blankets
* Develop and implement a family communications plan with family members living in your home so when a tornado strikes, you know how to get to a safe place. Be sure the plan also addresses the following:
  + Where you will meet up if separated?
  + How you will contact each other?
  + What would you do in different situations?
* Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. Listen to instructions given by local emergency management and law enforcement officials.
* Be aware of the danger signs indicating a tornado:
  + 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 approaching storms or any of these signs, be prepared to take a shelter immediately