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**Larry S. Helms**  
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INSURANCE SERVICES

## Disaster Kit

Put together a disaster kit in case you or someone in your household becomes injured or stranded due to a passing tornado.

It should be easy to transport should you need to evacuate your home or community.

Contents to include:

Nonperishable food and bottled water

Extra supply of any prescription and over-the-counter medications household members may need

Blankets and pillows

Flashlights and extra batteries

Portable radio

Emergency phone numbers

Pet food and any supplies you will need to take care of a pet

If someone in your household has a disability or special health issue, consider putting together a disaster kit specifically for that person in case they are separated from their caregiver. Make sure to include their personal identification and your contact information.

# Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are common and unpredictable severe weather events. They typically develop suddenly and quickly, from severe thunderstorms making landfall along the storm's path.



## What can You do to be Safe?

Prepare a tornado emergency plan in advance. Keep it in an easy-to-remember place and make sure that everyone in your household is familiar with it.

The plan should include such considerations as:

**Where to seek shelter.** A basement, an underground storm shelter or an enclosed, low-level bathroom or closet are typically the safest spots. Do not stay in your car.

**When to seek shelter.** A green-colored sky, low-lying rotating clouds, large hail and a loud, train-like roar are signs a tornado may be near.

**Who to contact.** Make a list of key phone numbers, including family members, close friends, the claims office for your homeowners and auto insurance company, and local emergency officials such as the police and fire department.

**Special needs.** Is someone in your home reliant on medical equipment that needs electricity? What about your pets? Make sure you have a generator or backup power. Keep or get water and food for all of you.

**Important records.** Compile all of your key personal documents (including your driver's license, Social Security card, medical records, financial records, insurance policies and home inventory) and place them in a safe, accessible spot, such as a file cabinet or secure fireproof box.