

Tornado Terminology

Tornadoes can happen abruptly, especially during Michigan's late spring and early summer seasons. Learn the terms to understand and know what to do before, during and after a tornado.

Tornado terms:

- **Tornado:** A violently rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach over 200 mph.
- **Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio reports, commercial radio and television reports for further information.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar in your area. Take shelter immediately.
- **Supercell:** A system producing severe thunderstorms, featuring rotating winds sustained by a prolonged updraft that may result in hail or tornadoes.