

# TORNADO SAFETY FOR MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS



The two deadliest tornado outbreaks in Florida history, with a total of 63 lives lost, occurred during years with strong El Niño weather patterns. Most recently, the Groundhog Day tornadoes, which struck Lake, Volusia and Sumter counties on Feb. 2, 2007, claimed 21 lives, caused \$32 million in damage and destroyed 185 structures.

## SURVIVING A STORM

Even the best built manufactured homes lack the structural strength to keep residents safe from harm during a tornado, and nearly half of all tornado-related deaths occur in manufactured homes.

Residents living in manufactured homes or recreational vehicles (RVs) should have a safe shelter plan before an emergency strikes, to include access to a friend or relative's site-built, fortified home 24 hours a day. Those living in manufactured homes and RVs should be sure they have ample time to get to their designated safe space when a tornado warning is issued.

To be better prepared, residents should consider purchasing a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio and sign up to receive local media weather text alerts. The National Weather Service can alert residents an average of 18 minutes before a possible tornado strike. That gives mobile home residents time to evacuate, if necessary, to a shelter or a stronger structure nearby.

All citizens should have a family disaster plan and communication plan, as well a disaster supply kit.

**For help in creating an emergency preparedness plan, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).**



**LAKE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT  
*Emergency Management Division*

## SIGNS OF A TORNADO

- Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base
- Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base, or debris falling from the sky
- Hail or heavy rain followed by either calm or a fast, intense wind shift
- Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen
- Loud, continuous roar or rumble like a train, which doesn't pass like thunder
- Small, bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm could be signs of powerlines snapping due to tornado-level winds
- Persistent lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning

To learn more, contact Lake County Emergency Management at 352-343-9420 or visit [www.lakecountyfl.gov/emergency](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/emergency), [www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFLEmergencyManagement](https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFLEmergencyManagement) and [www.twitter.com/lakeemergency](https://www.twitter.com/lakeemergency).