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ALERT CHICAGO PREPAREDNESS  
PRESENTATION: TORNADO EDITION  
PRESENTER'S GUIDE

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## ALERT CHICAGO PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION: TORNADO EDITION

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>At the conclusion of this course, the participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand characteristics of a tornado and the types of damage tornados can cause.</li><li>▪ Identify and describe the three key steps to preparing themselves and family for an emergency: build a kit; make a plan; and get information.</li><li>▪ Learn more about other opportunities to learn and practice preparedness</li></ul>
<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>The scope of this course will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Welcome and Introductions.</li><li>▪ Characteristics of and damaged caused by tornados</li><li>▪ Preparing for a tornado<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Build a Kit</li><li>▪ Make a Plan</li><li>▪ Get Information</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME</b>	10-15 minutes
<b>HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE</b>	<p><i>The Alert Chicago Preparedness Presentation: Tornado Edition Presenter's Guide</i> was created to help business and community leaders facilitate emergency preparedness learning opportunities for their constituents. This guide was designed to supplement information covered in the <i>Alert Chicago Preparedness (powerpoint ) Presentation: Tornado Edition</i>.</p> <p>The guide has three key features: Pictogram Alerts, Visual References, and subject matter text. The Pictogram Alerts are located along the left panel of each page and serve as instructional cues for the presenter. Embedded throughout the main body of the guide are Visual References that represent the corresponding slide in the powerpoint presentation. Following each Visual Reference is subject matter text to supplement the talking points covered in the powerpoint slide.</p>
<b>RESOURCES REQUIRED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Alert Chicago Preparedness Presentation Presenter's Guide</i> (Tornado Edition)</li><li>▪ Alert Chicago Preparedness Tornado Edition Powerpoint</li><li>▪ Any hand outs you have chosen to support this unit</li></ul>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<p>The following additional equipment is required for this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ A computer with PowerPoint and Media Player software</li><li>▪ A computer projector and screen</li><li>▪ Handouts (optional)</li></ul>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<p>The content contained in this presentation has been adapted by the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications to fit into a 15 minute format. The content is based on the January 2005 Community Emergency Response Team 20-hour training curriculum.</p>



**INTRODUCE  
TOPIC**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Welcome the participants to Alert Chicago Preparedness Presentation *Tornado Edition*.

Introduce yourself and any other instructors. Provide some background information about your past experiences in emergency management and emergency response, if applicable.

Explain to the group that this course was developed by the OEMC, in an effort to educate the public about how to prepare for and respond to a tornado event in the City of Chicago. Explain that OEMC's mission is to ensure the safety and security of residents of the City of Chicago. OEMC does this by coordinating the planning for and response to emergencies and special events and by delivering the highest quality 9-1-1 and traffic management services.

Introduce tornados by explaining what a tornado is.



**VISUAL 2**

**A Tornado Is . . .**

A powerful, circular windstorm that may be accompanied by winds in excess of 250 miles per hour.

Visual 2

Tell the participants that tornados are powerful, circular windstorms that may be accompanied by winds in excess of 250 miles per hour. Tornados typically develop during severe thunderstorms and may range in width from several hundred yards to more than a mile across.



Visual 3

## Areas of High Tornado Incidence

(MAP)

Visual 3

Point out that while tornados have been reported in every State in the U.S., they are most prevalent in the Midwest. Emphasize that **this includes CHICAGO!**

Explain that tornado season in Chicago roughly lasts from April to September, but can occur year-round.

- More than 80 percent of tornados occur between noon and midnight,
- One quarter occur from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



VISUAL 4

**Risks Posed by Tornados**

Tornados can:

- Send debris and glass flying
- Uproot structures and objects.
- Destroy buildings and/or cause structural damage.
- Rip trees apart.
- Overturn cars and mobile homes.

Visual 4

Explain that tornados pose a high risk because the low atmospheric pressure, combined with high wind velocity, can:

- **Send debris and glass flying**
- **Uproot structures and objects.**
- **Destroy buildings and/or cause structural damage.**
- **Rip trees apart.**
- **Overturn cars and mobile homes.**

Explain that damage caused by tornados can cause long term disruptions

to services on which we rely, such as:

Transportation (debris in streets can leave roads impassable causing delays on roadways and mass transit systems)

Communication (high winds can damage both cellular networks and landline phones)

Utilities (Gas and electric mains could sustain damage causing service disruption to homes and businesses)

First Responders (An increase in request for Police, Fire and EMS assistance can cause longer response times)



VISUAL 5

If I am at home, work or on the go, what does it take to be ready for a tornado?

1. Build a Kit
  2. Make a Plan
  3. Get Information
- \*Volunteer*

Visual 5

Explain that as with all emergencies, in the event of a tornado it is important to be personally prepared when you are at home, work, or on the go. This means:

- **Building an emergency supply kit** that contains enough food, water, and other critical resources to last you and your household for up 72 hours or three days.
- **Making an emergency plan** and practicing it with all members of your household. And
- **Getting information** about the types of risks and personal safety measures you can implement before and during a tornado.
- We also encourage you to participate in emergency preparedness learning and volunteer opportunities.



ASK QUESTION

To promote crowd participation and to ensure that the participants understand what it takes to be ready (or prepared), ask “What does it take to be ready for a tornado?”

Encourage the participants to recite the three steps for being ready out loud by having them shout: “Build a kit, Make a Plan, Get Information”



**INTRODUCE  
TOPIC**



**VISUAL 6**

Introduce the first step for getting ready for a tornado by describing items to pack in your home emergency kit and “go bags”.

Tips for an Emergency Kit	
Home	Go Bag
Food	Your “Go Bag” should include all the items listed in your emergency kit, plus:
Non-electric Can Opener	
Water	Bottle Water
First Aid Kit and Manual	Whistle
Essential Medications	Socks
Flashlight	Family Photo
Battery- powered Radio	Paper, Pen, and Tape
Extra Batteries	Personal Hygiene Items
Cash in Small Denominations	
A Copy of Your Family Plan	
Special Items (Baby formula, glasses, etc)	

A good emergency supply kit for your home has enough of the following items to support you and your household for up to 72hours or 3days:

- Food: Non-perishable and/or dehydrated foods such as granola, fruit snacks (raisins), nuts, peanut butter, crackers, etc
- Non-Electric Can-Opener
- Water: One gallon of water per person per day for both drinking and sanitation. *As a cost saving tip, encourage participants to recycle previously used gallon of water/pop containers, wash them out, and fill them with tap water.*
- First Aid Kit and Manual
- Essential Medications
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered Radio- with AM/FM, NOAA weather channel preferred
- Extra Batteries- of all sizes to support your devices
- Cash in small denominations- in case ATM, debit, and credit cards are not usable
- A Copy of Your Family Plan- and other important documents sealed in a plastic baggie to prevent wind/water damage.
- Special items- such as diapers, baby formula, eye glasses, etc

Point out that many of these items can be found in your home already. It is important that you have these items stored in one place that is easy to get to during an emergency.

Remind the participants to replace food and water supplies every six months.

It is also a good idea to keep some of these items (on a smaller scale) in a “Go Bag” to ensure that you are ready for a tornado even if you are not at home. Your “Go Bag” should include all the items listed for an

Emergency Kit, but should also include:

- Back pack to keep your hands free
- Bottle Water
- Whistle
- Socks
- Extra house and car keys
- Paper, pen and tape in case you need to leave a message
- Recent family photo for identification purposes
- Personal hygiene products including alcohol-based hand sanitizer, toothbrush, face cloth, feminine hygiene products





**INTRODUCE  
TOPIC**

Introduce the second step for getting ready for a tornado by describing important tips for making an emergency plan.



**VISUAL 7**

**Tips for Your Emergency Plan**

- Pay attention to National Weather Service issued Tornado Watch and/or Warning
- If outdoors, listen for the Emergency Warning Sirens:
  -  Alert
  -  All Clear
- Pre-Identify the location of your “safe place”
- Learn the protection position
- Pre-Identify a Reunion Location, in case you get separated or need to evacuate
- Make arrangements for your pets
- Have a list of important phone numbers
  - Out of State Contacts
  - Doctor
  - Pharmacist
  - Work Numbers
- Practice Your Plan

Visual 7

Pre-identifying a set of actions for you and your household to take in the event that a tornado is imminent could be the key for you and your household’s survival.

Explain to the participants that if a tornado is imminent it is important to:

- Pay attention to Tornado Watches and/ or Warnings issued through radio and television broadcasting by the National Weather Service.
  - **Tornado Watches** are issued to alert the public that conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado in or close to the specified area. These watches are issued with information concerning the specified area and the length of time they are in effect.
  - **Tornado Warnings** are issued to warn the public that a tornado has been sighted by storm spotters or has been indicated by radar. These warnings are issued with information concerning the current location of the storm and what communities are in the affected area.



**INSTRUCTOR'S  
NOTE**

- If outdoors or in a vehicle, listen for the City's sirens, which include two siren tones. When they are activated during an emergency, each of the siren tones will be activated for 3 minutes.

Visual 7 contains soundbytes of each of the siren alarms. If you are using the power point to supplement this presentation, click on the corresponding icon to play the siren.

- **Alert:** An up-and-down, rising and falling tone to signify a tornado warning. If you hear this while outdoors, you must take immediate shelter in the nearest sturdy building and stay clear of windows and glass.
- **All Clear:** A flat, level tone to signify that the tornado conditions have passed and there is no immediate or direct threat to the community.



**Instructor's  
Note**

There are 113 sirens throughout the City of Chicago. The City conducts a 20-second test of all the sirens the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00am. The test level is at a lower volume than the volume used during an emergency activation.

- Pre-Identify the location of your safe place and make sure all members of your household know where it is. A safe place should be a room or area with no or few windows or other potential flying debris.
- Learn the protection position -sit on knees bent forward with fingers locked behind head.
- Pre-Identify a Reunion Location, in case you get separated or need to evacuate
- Make arrangements for your pets
- Have a list of important phone numbers
  - Out of State Contact
  - Doctor
  - Pharmacist
  - Work Numbers
- Practice your plan



**INTRODUCE  
TOPIC**

Introduce the third step for getting ready for a tornado by encouraging the participants to further their understanding about preparing for and responding to tornados.



**VISUAL 8**

<b>For Your Information</b>	
	Myths

Visual 8



ASK QUESTION

Briefly go over the following myths and ask the participants if they believe the statement is factual or not.

**Myth:** Areas near lakes, rivers, high-rises are safe from tornados.

**Fact:** No place is safe from tornados. In September of 2006 the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for the City of Chicago.

**Myth:** Tornados cause buildings to explode.

**Fact:** Strong winds and debris slamming into buildings cause the most damage.

**Myth:** If you open windows, you can minimize damage to your building.

**Fact:** Windows should be left closed to minimize damage from flying debris and to keep high winds out of the building.

**Myth:** You should drive at a right angle to the storm.

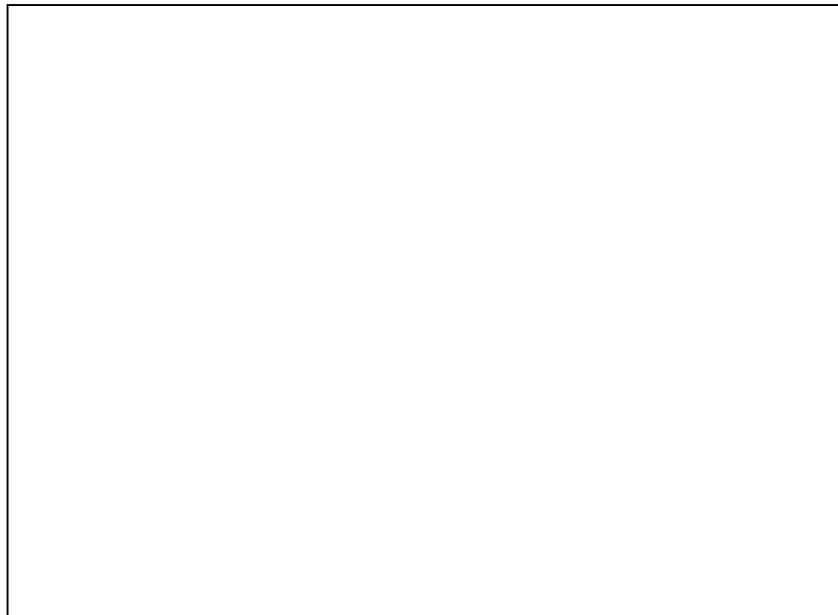
**Fact:** The best thing to do is to seek the best available shelter. Many people are injured or killed by remaining in their cars.

**Myth:** People caught in the open should seek shelter under a highway overpass, bridge, or bus shelter.

**Fact:** Do not seek shelter under highway overpasses, bridges or bus shelters. The best thing to do is to seek shelter in a sturdy building.



VISUAL 9



Encourage the participants to support the City's planned activities for Tornado Preparedness Week from April 9<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup>.

***Tuesday, April 10th -***

Haines Elementary School

OEMC conducts CPS In-School tornado Drill

(9:00a.m.)

***Wednesday, April 11th –***

Commuter Preparedness

Union Station  
444 W. Jackson Blvd  
(7:00a.m.)

**Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Union Station  
444 W. Jackson Blvd  
Commuter Preparedness  
(7:00a.m.)

**Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Chicago Cultural Center –  
Preston Bradley Hall  
78 E. Washington  
National Weather Service Public Lecture with Senior Meteorologist Jim  
Allsop  
(12:00 – 1:30p.m.)



**VISUAL 10**

**Volunteer and Learning Opportunities**

**Alert Chicago**

- Alertchicago.com
- Alert Chicago Preparedness Presentation
- 20-Hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

**American Red Cross**

- Readychicagoland.org
- Get Ready Days
- CPR Training

Highlight the various volunteer and learning opportunities available to the public through the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications and through the American Red Cross.

**Alert Chicago (OEMC)**

- Alertchicago.com
- Alert Chicago Preparedness Presentation
- 20-Hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

**American Red Cross**

- Readychicagoland.org
- Get Ready Days
- CPR Training

This concludes the presentation. Thank the participants for attending and encourage them to review any brochures, handouts or other printed material containing emergency preparedness information.