

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, and flash flooding just to name a few.

Know your Risk and understand the types of hazardous weather that can affect Peoria County.

# Tornado



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A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground and is often, although not always, visible as a funnel cloud. Lightning and hail are common in thunderstorms that produce tornadoes. Tornadoes cause extensive damage to structures and disrupt transportation, power, water, gas, communications, and other services in its direct path and in neighboring areas.

Tornadoes can strike in any season, but occur most often in the spring and summer months. They can occur at all hours of the day and night, but are most likely to occur between 3:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.



- Be alert to changing weather conditions
- Look for the following danger signs:
  - Large hail
  - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
  - Loud roar, similar to a freight train
- Be prepared to take shelter immediately

The extent of destruction caused by tornadoes depends on the tornado's intensity, size, path, time of day, and amount of time it is on the ground. Wind from tornadoes can reach more than 300 miles per hour. Wind from tornadoes can destroy buildings and trees, transform debris into deadly projectiles, and roll vehicles.

- They may strike quickly, with little or no warning
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel

Familiarize yourself with the following terms:

- Tornado Watch – Tornadoes are possible. When there is a watch declared:
  - Move to be near enough a shelter or sturdy building should a warning be declared
  - Remain alert for approaching storms
  - Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information
- Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.
  - Take shelter immediately!

